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Dr. Jacob Anderson, General Synod.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

EVANGELICAL

Lutheran General Synod,

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION,

IN WHICH IT WAS FORMED.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

Lancaster :

PRINTED BY JOHN BEAR.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CONVENTION.

THE Deputies from the several Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of America, appointed to form a Constitution of a General Synod, met in Hagerstown, in the State of Maryland, on Sunday, the 22d day of October, A. D. 1820. Discourses on different subjects, in the German Language, were delivered in the forenoon and afternoon, and in the English Language by candlelight, to very numerous auditories, and, it is hoped, not without a divine blessing.

On Monday forenoon, at 9 o'clock, the special business of the Convention was commenced in the Church, the Rev. Dr. Kurtz, of Baltimore, being called to the chair, and the Rev. Pastor Muhlenberg, of Reading, Pa. appointed Secretary. After the persons assembled had united with the Chairman, in prayer to Him who is the source of all goodness, holiness and wisdom, the certificates from the several Synods were called for, and it appeared that the following gentlemen were duly authorised to sit as Deputies, viz.

From the Synod of PENNSYLVANIA.

The Rev. Pastor J. G. Schmucker,

Dr. Lochman,

Pastor F. W. Geissenhainer.

The Rev. Dr. Endress,
 Pastor H. A. Muhlenberg,
 Mr. Christian Kunkel,
 Mr. William Hensel,
 Mr. Peter Stichter;

From the Synod in the State of NEW-YORK.

The Rev. Pastor Ph. F. Mayer,
 Pastor F. C. Schæffer;

From the Synod in NORTH CAROLINA.

The Rev. Pastor Schober,
 Pastor Schmucker;

From the Synod in MARYLAND.

The Rev. Dr. Kurtz,
 Pastor D. F. Schæffer,
 Mr. George Schryock.

It was much regretted by all present, that from the Synod in the state of Ohio the expected Deputies did not appear.

On motion, and after some deliberation, it was resolved, that in the Forming and Concluding of the Constitution, the Convention shall vote by Synods, each Synod, represented in this body, having one vote.

After some friendly conversation, concerning the most suitable mode of effecting the object of the Convention, several plans of a Constitution, intended to serve as indexes in the course of deliberation, were read. One of these being taken up for the purpose intended, the Convention began its deliberations and continued therein, with close and diligent attention, for two successive days, when the following Constitution was, in all its parts, unanimously agreed to, and resolved to be laid before the several Synods in the United States for consideration, adoption and confirmation.

CONSTITUTION

*Of the Evangelical Lutheran General Synod in the
United States of North America.*

JESUS CHRIST, the Supreme Head of His Church, having prescribed no special Regulations concerning Church government, and every sectional portion of the Church being left at full liberty to make such regulations to that effect, as may be most adapted to its situation and circumstances, therefore
——Relying upon God our Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God, for the promotion of the practice of Brotherly Love, to the furtherance of Christian Concord, to the firm establishment and continuance of the Unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace—— We, the Deputies of the “German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania and the neighbouring States,” of the “German and English Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the State of North Carolina and the bordering States,” of the “Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium in the State of New-York and the neighbouring States and Countries,” and of the “Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland, Virginia, &c.” for ourselves and our successors, do adopt the following fundamental articles, viz.

ARTICLE I.

The Name, Style and Title of this Convention shall be: *The Evangelical Lutheran General Synod of the United States of North America.*

ARTICLE II.

This General Synod shall consist of the Deputies from the several Evangelical Synodal Conventions in the United States, who may join themselves thereunto and be duly acknowledged as members thereof, in the following ratio, namely :

Every Synodal body, or Synod, (whether of Ministers only, or of Ministers and Lay Deputies together) containing six Ministers, may send one; if it contain fourteen, two; if twenty-five, three; if forty, four; if sixty, five; and if it contain eighty-six Ministers or upwards, six Deputies of the rank of ordained Ministers and an equal number of Lay Deputies.

Each Deputy, appearing in the General Synod according to this ratio, shall, except as is herein after provided, enjoy an equal right and vote with all others. Every Synod may chuse its Deputies in such a way and manner as to them may seem proper, and shall pay the travelling expenses of the same to and from the General Synod, until the General Synod shall have established for itself a treasury, from which the future expenses may be discharged.

ARTICLE III.

The Business of the General Synod shall be as follows, namely :

SECTION I. The General Synod shall look into the Proceedings of the several Synods and Ministeriums belonging to this association, in order that they may obtain some knowledge of the existing state and condition of the Church. The several Synods therefore shall transmit as many copies of their proceed-

ings to the General Synod, as there shall be members contained in the General Synod.

SECTION II. With regard to all *Books* and *Writings* proposed for common and public use in the church, the General Synod shall act as a joint committee of the special Synods and Ministeriums, after the following manner, viz.

1. The General Synod shall examine all books and writings, such as catechisms, forms of liturgy, collections of hymns, or confessions of faith, proposed by the special Synods for public use, and give their well considered advice, counsel or opinion concerning the same. No Synod, therefore, and no Ministerium, standing in connexion with this General Synod, shall set forth any new book or writing of the kind above mentioned, for public use in the church, without having previously transmitted a full and complete copy thereof to the General Synod, for the purpose of receiving their said advice, counsel or opinion.

2. Whenever the General Synod shall deem it proper or necessary, they may propose to the Special Synods or Ministeriums, new books or writings of the kind mentioned above, for general or special, common or public use. Every proposal of the kind, the several or respective Synods and Ministeriums shall duly consider, and if they, or any one of them, shall be of opinion, that the said book or books, writing or writings, will not conduce to the end proposed, then and in such a case it is hoped, that the reasons of such opinion will be transmitted to the next convention of the General Synod, in order that the same may be entered on their journal.

3. But no General Synod can be allowed to possess, or arrogate unto itself, the power of *prescrib-*

ing among us *uniform ceremonies of religion* for every part of the Church ;” or to introduce such alterations in matters appertaining to the faith, or to the mode of publishing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, (the Son of God, and ground of our faith and hope) as might in any way tend to burden the consciences of the brethren in Christ.

SECTION III. If hereafter twenty-five ministers, dwelling exclusively together, within a certain marked boundary, fifteen of whom being ordained ministers, shall apply to the General Synod for permission to create within themselves a Special Ministerium, and the Synod or Ministerium to which they have previously belonged, do not, upon due notice given of their intention so to apply, make any serious or important objection, then the General Synod shall have power to grant the permission; and if within the bounds of a whole state no special Synod or Ministerium shall yet have existed, and six ordained ministers residing therein shall apply for permission to create within themselves a special Ministerium, the General Synod shall authorize the establishment of a new Synod and Ministerium within the said state. But until the permission or authority be thus formally conceded, no Deputies of a new Synod or Ministerium shall be acknowledged to have a seat and vote in the General Synod.

SECTION IV. With regard to the Grades in the Ministry, the General Synod may give to the several Ministeriums well considered advice, wherein the circumstances of time, place and condition must be duly contemplated, and a beneficial uniformity, and actual equality, of rank among the several ministers, must, as much as possible, be had in view. The General Synod shall also advise such rules and regula-

tions among the several Synods and Ministeriums, as may prevent unpleasant and unfriendly collisions, that might otherwise arise out of any differences of grades existing among them, or from any whatever other possible causes.

SECTION V. The General Synod shall not be looked upon as a Tribunal of Appeal; it may, however, be employed in the following cases and after the following manner:

1. The General Synod may give advice or opinion, when complaints shall be brought before them, by whole Synods, Ministeriums, Congregations, or individual Ministers, concerning doctrine or discipline. They shall however be extremely careful, that the consciences of the Ministers of the Gospel be not burdened with human inventions, laws or devices, and that no one be oppressed by reason of differences of opinion.

2. If Parties, differing in matters of doctrine and discipline, refer the cause of difference, in a brotherly manner, to the General Synod, they shall institute a close and exact scrutiny and examination thereof, and give their opinion on the subject of difference, according to their best insight of right, equity, brotherly love and truth.

3. If differences between Synods be referred, the votes thereon shall be taken by Synods, and the referring Synods shall have no vote.

SECTION VI. The General Synod may devise plans for seminaries of education and missionary institutions, as well as for the aid of poor ministers, and the widows and orphans of ministers, and endeavour, with the help of God, to carry them into effect.

SECTION VII. The General Synod may also institute and create a treasury for the effectual advancement of its purposes.

SECTION VIII. The General Synod shall apply all their powers, their prayers and their means, toward the prevention of schisms among us, and be sedulously and incessantly regardful of the circumstances of the times, and of every casual rise and progress of unity of sentiment among Christians in general, of whatever kind or denomination, in order that the blessed opportunities to heal the wounds and schisms already existing in the Church of Christ and to promote general concord and unity, may not pass by neglected and unavailing.

ARTICLE IV.

The General Synod shall choose, from among their own number, a president and a secretary ; and from among their own number or elsewhere, as soon as it may be necessary, a treasurer. They shall continue in office until the next succeeding convention. The same person is at all times re-eligible as secretary or treasurer ; but no one may be elected president more than two conventions in succession, and the same person cannot thereafter be elected for the two successively following conventions.

SECTION I. The president shall act as chairman of the convention. He may make motions, give his opinion and vote like every other member. With the consent and concurrence of the minister of the place where the convention is held, he shall appoint the several preachers during the convention. He shall subscribe all letters, written advices, resolutions, and the proceedings of the Synod. In extra-

ordinary cases, and by request of any one of the acknowledged Synods, made known to him in the form of a synodal or ministerial resolution, he may call together special conventions of the General Synod. In case the business of the secretary become too burdensome for one person to execute, he shall, with the concurrence of the secretary, appoint an assistant secretary, and make known to him what portion of the labours he ought to undertake.

SECTION II. The secretary shall keep a journal of the proceedings, write, attest, and take care of all the documents and writings, make known the time and place of the convention, by the medium of the public prints, at least three months beforehand, and, in the special or extraordinary cases mentioned in the foregoing section, he shall give written notice thereof to each of the special Synods or Ministeriums.

SECTION III. If the president or secretary, in the intermediate time between the conventions, depart this life, resign his office, or become incapable of executing the same, the next in office shall take his place and perform his duties ; if it be the treasurer, then the president shall appoint another treasurer *ad interim* in his stead.

SECTION IV. The treasurer shall keep account of the receipts and expenditures of the Synod. He shall give receipts for all monies put into his hands. He shall not pay any money out of his hands but by order of the president, attested by the secretary, in pursuance of a resolution of the Synod to that effect. At every convention of the Synod he shall render account.

ARTICLE V.

The course of business shall be conducted as follows, viz.

1. The deputies shall give personal notice of their arrival to the minister of the place, or if the congregation be vacant of a minister, to any other person appointed by the congregation for the purpose, who shall make known to them their place of residence and the place where the sessions shall be held.

2. At nine o'clock in the forenoon of the first week-day of the time of convocation, the sessions shall begin and be opened with prayer.

3. The president elected by the former convention shall act as chairman till another president be chosen. In case of his absence, the persons present may, on motion made and seconded, appoint another in his stead.

4. The members shall give in to the chairman their attestations or certificates. For all the deputies from any one particular Synod one certificate signed by the president and attested by the secretary of that Synod, shall be deemed sufficient, and all the members of the same Synod shall sit together.

5. If a majority of the deputies, of a majority of the Synods attached to the General Synod, be present, the business shall go on. If this proportion be lacking, the members present may from time to time postpone the sessions of the convention.

6. The president, secretary and treasurer shall be elected by ballot, on the first day of the sessions and so soon as the members shall have given in their certificates.

7. The proceedings of the former convention shall be read by the secretary.

8. Hereupon follow the several portions of business according to Article 3d, section for section.

9. Now other mixed motions may be made, concerning the subjects already discussed, or any other matters that may occur.

10. In conclusion the Synod shall appoint, by ballot, the time and place of the next convention, observing at all times, however, that one convention at least, be held every three years.

ARTICLE VI.

The General Synod may make whatever by-laws they may deem necessary, provided only that the said by-laws do not contradict the spirit of the constitution.

ARTICLE VII.

No alterations of this constitution may be made except by the consent of two-thirds of the Synods attached to this convention; notice of the intended alteration having been given to the said Synods at least two years previous to the final adoption thereof.

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| J. G. SCHMUCKER, | } | <i>Of Pennsylvania.</i> |
| GEO. LOCHMAN, | | |
| CHRISTIAN ENDRESS, | | |
| F. W. GEISSENHAINER, | | |
| H. A. MUHLENEBERG, | | |
| CHR. KUNKEL, | | |
| WM. HENSEL, | } | <i>Of New York.</i> |
| PETER STICHTER, | | |
| PH. F. MAYER, | | |
| F. C. SCHÆFFER, | } | <i>Of North Carolina.</i> |
| GOTTL. SCHOBER, | | |
| PETER SCHMUCKER, | } | <i>Of Maryland.</i> |
| DANIEL KURTZ, | | |
| D. F. SCHÆFFER, | | |
| GEO. SCHRYOCK, | | |

The foregoing constitution being completed and adopted, the convention resolved unanimously :

1. That in case one or more of the Synods shall not be satisfied with every part of this constitution, and make known to the chairman of this convention a conditional adoption thereof, the chairman shall communicate the circumstance to the other Synods, and the General Synod may in its next convention deliberate thereon, and shall, in the adoption or rejection of the proposed condition, vote by Synods.

2. That, if three of the Synods here represented, shall have confirmed this constitution, the chairman shall give public notice that the next General Synod convene in Fredericktown, in the state of Maryland, on the third Monday in October, Anno Domini, 1821.

3. That of these proceedings, together with the constitution formed, 500 copies be printed in the German and 250 copies in the English language ; that the Rev. Dr. Endress translate the same into the English language ; and that the chairman of this convention transmit to the presidents of the several Synods a sufficient number of copies, that each of the ministers belonging to the said Synods may procure one English and one German copy thereof.

4. That the chairman of this convention address a friendly letter to the president of the Synod of Ohio, encouraging him, if possible, to prevail on the said Synod to unite with their brethren in the adoption of this constitution.

5. That, in pursuance of the 6th section of article 3d of this constitution, and fondly hoping that

the several Synods will confirm the same, three committees be appointed to set the business of that section into proper train.

The following were appointed for the said committees :

1. *To form a Plan for a Seminary of Education.*

Pastor J. G SCHMUCKER,
DR. LOCHMAN,
DR. ENDRESS,
Pastor GEISSENHAINER,
Pastor MUHLENBERG,

2. *To form a Plan of a Missionary Institution.*

DR. KURTZ,
Pastor J. G. SCHMUCKER,
Pastor D. F. SCHÆFFER,
Pastor B. KURTZ,
Pastor RECK.

3. *To form a Plan in aid of poor Ministers, and Ministers' Widows and Orphans.*

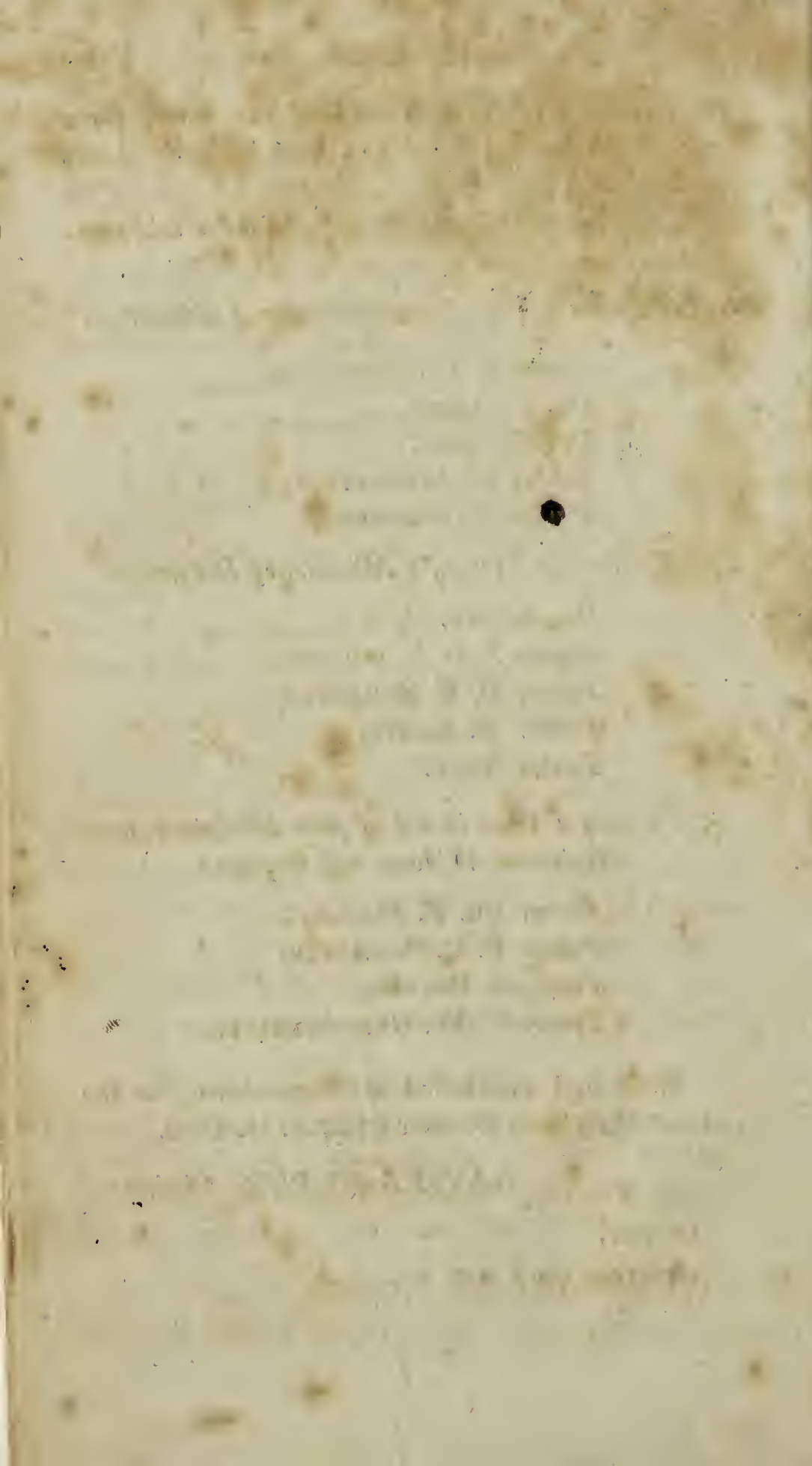
Pastor PH. F. MAYER,
Pastor F. C. SCHÆFFER,
Pastor J. BECKER,
Pastor F. W. GEISSENHAINER.

Done and concluded at Hagerstown, in the state of Maryland, October 24th, A. D. 1820.

DANIEL KURTZ, Chairman.

ATTEST,

H. A. MUHLENBERG, Secretary.



4

MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

EVANGELICAL

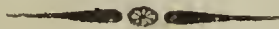
LUTHERAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES,

CONVENED AT FREDERICKTOWN---MD.

OCT. 21, 22, 23, 1821.



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MINUTES &c.

This being the day appointed, for the meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran General Synod, the Clergy and the Lay-delegates assembled in the Lutheran Church at 10 o'clock A. M.

The Rev. Dr. Lochman, performed the service in the morning in the German language. The Rev. J. G. Schmucker officiated in the afternoon in German, and Dr. Endress in the evening in the English language. Divine service was conducted in the German Reformed Church, in the forenoon, by the Rev. G. Shober.

October 22, 9 o'clock.

The Clergy and Lay-delegates met. The Rev. G. Shober was called to the chair, and introduced the business of the day, with a fervent prayer. Upon an examination of the certificates, and minutes of the several Synods it appeared, that the following gentlemen were duly authorized, to sit as members of the Synod :

From the Synod of Pennsylvania,

The Rev. J. G. Schmucker.

- - Dr. G. Lochman

- - Dr. C. Endress.

Charles A. Barnitz Esq.

a F. Shorrets Esq.

P. Brua. Esq.

From the Synod of North Carolina.

The Rev. G. Shober
- - D. Scherer.

From the Synod of Maryland and Virginia.

The Rev. D. F. Schæffer, A. M.
John Ebert Esq.

On account of the prevailing epidemic, and an error in the advertisement of the newspapers concerning the time of meeting, there were absent, four deputies elected by the Synod of Pennsylvania, two by the Synod of North Carolina, and two by the Synod of Maryland and Virginia. From the Synods of Newyork & Ohio no deputies attended. A quorum however was present.

It was moved and seconded, that the following be adopted as a rule of this Synod: "No person shall be considered as elected to any office in this Synod, who has not received a majority of the votes of the attending members."

Resolved, that this Synod do now proceed to the election of a President & Secretary. The ballots being counted, it appeared that the Rev. Dr. *Lochman*, was duly elected President, and *David F. Schœffer* Secretary.

The Minutes of the convention, assembled at Hagerstown Oct. 1820, for the purpose of forming a constitution for a general Synod, were read.

Resolved, That, committees be appointed, to examine the proceedings of the several Synods and report thereon. The President accordingly appointed the Rev. G. Shober & C. Barnitz Esq. to examine those of the Synod of Pennsylvania. Rev. J. G. Schmucker & John Ebert Esq. those of

the Synod of North Carolina & the Rev. Dr. Endress & F. Sherrets Esq. those of the Synod of Maryland & Virginia.

Resolved, that, the present state of our church requiring it, a committee be appointed to compose an english catechism, and to offer it to the consideration of the next general Synod.

The Rev. Messrs. Endress, Schmucker, Sho-ber, Lochman and Schæffer, were accordingly appointed.

Prayers by the President.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock P M.

3 o'clock, P. M.

Prayers by the President.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the several Synods, in which the orders of deacons, & candidates with power to administer the Sacraments, exist, not to retain said orders any longer than the exigency of the times may require.

The Rev. Riemenschneider from Virginia appeared, and stated, that he considered himself aggrieved, by certain resolutions passed by the Synod of Maryland & Virginia, touching a difference between himself and the Rev. Meyerheffer, and laid on the table certain documents in his own defence.

Resolved, that, the Rev. Messrs. Schmucker, Sho-ber, Scherer, & Messrs. Barnitz and Sherrets, be a committee to investigate the nature of the grievance, & to report thereon to this Synod.

The report of the committee, appointed to form a plan for a theological seminary was read, and the consideration thereof deferred until to-morrow.

Prayers by the Rev. Schmucker.

Adjourned until to morrow 9 o'clock A. M.

This evening the Rev. Mr. Shober delivered a discourse in the English language.

October 23, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Synod met according to adjournment, & was opened with prayer by the President.

The committee appointed to examine the Proceedings of the Synod of Pennsylvania reported, that at the sessions of said Synod, which commenced on the 18th of July last & closed on the 21st, there were present 24 Pastors, 12 Deacons, 12 Candidates, & 25 Lay-delegates. That the ministry of that body consists of 85 members. That the Ministers present baptized in the year preceding the session, 5268 children, confirmed 2203 persons, administered the Lord's Supper to 26,860, buried 1625, and had under their care 295 schools. The committee expressed much regret, that many of the absent Ministers of the said Synod, neglected to furnish their Secretary with the parochial reports from their respective congregations, as, from certain data, the committee infers, that at least 4500 persons were confirmed in the congregations under the care of the said Synod.

The committee appointed to examine the proceedings of the Synod of Maryland & Virginia, reported: That said Synod was duly organized on the 11 & 12 of Oct. 1820 by 11 Ministers and 7 Lay-delegates; that the first synodical meeting was held at Fredericktown, on the 2, 3, & 4th of September 1821; that there were then present 15 Ministers and 13 Lay-delegates; that the said

Ministers baptized during the preceding year 1719 children, confirmed 580 persons, administered the Lord's supper to 5168, buried 309, & had under their care 40 schools.

The Committee further reported: That the utmost harmony prevailed at the sessions of the said Synod, and that they have satisfactory evidence, that the great shepherd of souls smiles upon, and imparts his blessings to that part of our church.

The Rev. Messrs. Shober and Scherer gave a succinct account of the proceedings of the Synod of North Carolina, stating that they had hoped to furnish each member of this Synod, with a copy of their minutes, but that the Printer had disappointed them.

Resolved, that as soon as the Secretary is furnished with a printed copy of the minutes of the Synod of North Carolina, it shall be his duty, to add an epitome thereof, to the minutes of this Synod.

(See appendix.)

After some conversation and deliberation upon the state of our church, in the more remote parts of the United States, it was stated, that some Clergymen had undertaken to ordain others, without the consent of their ministerium; and the Question was laid before the Synod: "Whether, in the present state of our church, an ordination performed by individual Preachers without permission granted by their Ministerium, ought to be acknowledged as authorized in our connection. To this Question the Synod, on due deliberation, answered unanimously in the NEGATIVE.

The committee appointed to investigate the case, submitted to the consideration of this Synod by the Rev. Riemenschneider, reported: That

they had attended to the duty assigned them, & upon mature reflection, offered the following resolution, for adoption by the Synod, viz.

Resolved, That, as the Rev. Riemenschneider produced new testimony on his part, which was not before the Synod of Maryland & Virginia, and, as he could not meet the said Synod, according to the advice given him by the Synod of Pennsylvania, his case be again referred to the consideration of the said Synod of Maryland & Virginia with the advice of this Synod, that the Synod of Maryland & Virginia reconsider this affair in the presence of both the parties. Adopted.

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to compose, according to its best judgement, a pastoral letter, and to issue it, as early as possible, to all our congregations in the United States, in the name of the General Synod.

The Rev. Messrs. Lochman, Schmucker, Endress & Schæffer were duly elected, as members of said committee.

Resolved, that, 500 copies of the Pastoral letter be printed in the English, and an equal number in the German language.

Resolved, that 300 copies of the minutes of this Synod be printed in the German, and 200 in the English language.

Resolved, that the expenses of printing, be apportioned among the different Synods, according to the number of Ministers in each of them.

Resolved, that it is expedient, to elect a treasurer for this Synod, with full power, to

receive all donations and contributions, which may be made, for the benefit of our church in the United States.

Charles A. Barnitz Esq. of York in Pennsylvania, was unanimously elected,

A letter from the Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer was read ; the Synod was highly gratified with it, and regretted that circumstances prevented him from attending this Synod. His views, as regards the establishment of a theological seminary, almost throughout coincided with those of the committee, appointed to form a plan for the said seminary.

The report of the said committee was now discussed, and finally adopted, nem. con. viz.

1. That the committee could not conceive of a plan, for the establishment of a Theological Seminary, by which the object of such an institution could fully be obtained, and which would not at the same time, require a much greater exertion, than the present wants appear to justify.

2. That, for the reason already stated, and on account of the present pressure of the times, it is the deliberate opinion of the committee, that the establishment of a Theological seminary may very justly be deferred, for several years.

3. But, the committee is of opinion, that, after a lapse of several years, the establishment of such a seminary will not only be necessary, but with the aid of God feasible.

4. It is further the opinion of the committee, that seasonable preparations should be commenced, in anticipation of so important an undertaking viz.

1.) That it be made the duty of every Minister in our connection, to prepare the minds of the members of his congregation, upon this subject.

2.) That arrangements ought to be made at an early day, for the establishment of a well selected and extensive Library, for the use of the seminary intended to be established.

3.) That, in order to effect this, various public Theological libraries upon a small scale ought to be established in different places, under the jurisdiction of this Synod, which, in the mean time, could be used by Ministers and Students, and ultimately incorporated into a general library.

5. That it be recommended to the several Synods, to admit for the present, no young man, to the study of Theology, before he has obtained a diploma, or some similar testimonial, from a public institution, wherein the usual branches of science are taught ; or before he has been examined in such branches, & found sufficiently qualified, by a committee appointed for the purpose.

6. That it be recommended to the several Synods in our connection, to nominate, as teachers of certain special branches of Theology, particular persons, and to recommend to them certain and suitable Text-books and systems of each branch, so that the students may obtain instruction in the different branches, from different persons, and no one impose upon himself too much in the important province of educating young men for the ministry,

The report of the committee appointed to form a plan of a missionary institution was read ; But a majority of said committee being absent, it was resolved to postpone the consideration thereof,

and that it be referred to the same committee, to make report at the next meeting of the general synod.

Resolved, that it be earnestly recommended to the several Synods, to send in the mean time, one or more missionaries to such parts of the country, as in their opinion may stand most in need of them. #

Prayers by Mr. Shober.
Adjourned to 3 o'clock P. M.

3 o'clock P. M.

Prayers by the President.

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Stauch of Ohio was read.

Resolved, that the Rev. Mr. Schmucker answer the said letter.

Resolved, that as many copies of the Pastoral letter, and of these minutes, be sent to the Synod of Ohio, as there are ministers in connection with said Synod.

All the business, with which the Synod could engage, being now accomplished, the time and place of the next meeting of the general Synod was determined by ballot viz.

On the 3d Sunday of October A. D. 1823 at Fredericktown Maryland.

After singing a hymn, the Ministers and Lay-delegates present, on bended knees, united with the Rev. President in closing the session with a most fervent and pathetic prayer.

The greatest cordiality, and uninterrupted harmony, prevailed throuhgout the sessions.

That the above is a correct copy of the Minutes of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, held at Fredericktown October 1821, is certified by

David F. Schaeffer, Sec'y.

APPENDIX.

Extract from the Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina.

From the minutes of the Synod of North Carolina, it appears, that said Synod met on the 17th of June 1821, at Laus' Church. There were present 13 Ministers, and 9 Lay-delegates. The Ministers present had baptized during the preceding year 578 children, 47 adults, confirmed 220, buried 108. The number of communicants is not reported.

Episcopal A committee from the Episcopal church attended the said Synod, with a view to confer on some plan, by which a good understanding might be maintained between the two respective churches. The Synod appointed a committee to confer with them.

offer. The result of the conference was : "that any Minister, in connection with the synod, shall be entitled to a seat in the Episcopal convention of North Carolina with the privilege of voting upon all subjects, that do not appertain to the Episcopal church, and vice versa. The committee on behalf of the Episcopal church, also offered to the Synod, to educate and prepare for the Ministry, gratuitously, any Student, it might recommend, at their Seminary in Newhaven.

Upon the whole, it is evident, that our church in North Carolina, enjoys the favour of our Lord, and in defiance of various difficulties, continues to increase; but it is also evident, that the harvest is great, and the labourers few.

At this Synod a very interesting letter was received, from the Rev. Mr. Bergman, who has charge of a respectable congregation, at Ebenezer, in the State of Georgia. A correspondence was commenced, between the Synod and Mr. Bergman, from which much information may be expected, respecting the state of our church in those remote parts of our country.

MINUTES
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD,
OF THE
EVANG. LUTH. CHURCH
IN THE
UNITED STATES;
Convened at Fredericktown (Md.)
Oct. 1823.



YORK:

PRINTED BY HENRY C. NEINSTEDT,

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1823.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
EDINBURGH

NOTICE

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
HAS THE HONOUR TO ANNOUNCE
THAT THE EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
SCIENCE IN THE
NATURAL SCIENCES
WILL BE HELD AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
ON THE 10TH OF JULY 1912
AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.

THE EXAMINATIONS WILL BE HELD
IN THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:
PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, AND
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.
THE EXAMINATIONS WILL BE
HELD IN THE FOLLOWING
MANNER:—
THE PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY
EXAMINATIONS WILL BE HELD
ON THE 10TH OF JULY 1912
AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.

THE NATURAL PHILOSOPHY
EXAMINATION WILL BE HELD
ON THE 11TH OF JULY 1912
AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.

MINUTES, &c.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND GENERAL SYNOD OF THE EV. LUTH. CHURCH, &c.

THE Clergy & Lay-delegates, elected by the several Synods as members of the Ev. Lutheran General Synod, assembled in the Lutheran church on Sunday at 11 o'clock A. M. where the Rev. J. G. SCHMUCKER delivered an impressive discourse. The Rev. J. SHERER preached in the afternoon, and the Rev. S. S. SCHMUCKER at candlelight.

Monday, Oct. 20th, 9 o'clock A. M.

The session was opened by singing a hymn, and prayer to the great Shepherd of souls. The minutes of the Synods and letters introductory were then laid on the table, from which it appeared that the following brethren were elected as delegates from the different district Synods :

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Rev. DANIEL SHERER, | } | from the Synod of <i>North-Carolina.</i> |
| - JACOB SHERER, | | |
| Mr. MICHAEL MILLER, | | |
| - PETER SUMMER, | | |
| Rev. PETER SCHMUCKER, | } | Synod of <i>Ohio.</i> |
| - J. STECK, | | |
| Rev. DANIEL KURTZ, D. D. | } | from the Synod of <i>Maryland</i> & <i>Virginia.</i> |
| - DAVID F. SCHAEFFER, A. M. | | |
| Mr. JOHN EBERT, Esq. | | |
| - JOHN ALBERT, | | |

Rev. J. G. SCHMUCKER, } appointed by the Conference
 - J. HERBST, } of the ministers west of the
 } Susquehanna belonging to
 } the Synod of *Pennsylvania*.

Rev. S. S. SCHMUCKER, A. M. } were appointed by au-
 Mr. F. LÆHR, } thority of the Synod of
 } Maryland & Virginia,
 } vice two absent de-
 } legates of said Synod.

Several delegates were absent in consequence of indisposition, but a representation of a majority of the Synods in connexion with the General Synod being present, the brethren, in reliance on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, proceeded to business. The Synod proceeded to ballot for its officers, upon which it appeared that the following persons were elected :

Rev. D. KURTZ, D. D. President.
 - D. F. SCHAEFFER, A. M. Secretary.
 Mr. C. A. BARNITZ, Esq. Treasurer.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. C. A. Barnitz, Treasurer of this Synod, reporting that no money had yet been sent to the Treasury, and expressing his best wishes and the assurance of his most earnest prayers for the prosperity of this Synod.

Resolved : that the Secretary address a letter of thanks to our Brother C. A. Barnitz, Esq.

The minutes of the General Synod of 1821 were then read.

The Rev. J. G. Schmucker & Rev. J. Herbst now presented themselves as a deputation of the Special Conference of the members of the Pennsylvania Synod, residing west of the Susquehanna, held at York, Oct. 6th 7th 1823, and laid on the table the minutes of said Conference.

Resolved : that this Synod is highly gratified by the presence of this respectable deputation, together with the minutes of the Special Conference, and more especially with the resolutions contained in them in support of the General Synod.

The Rev. J. G. Schmucker reported, that the Committee appointed by the last General Synod to compose and sub-

mit to this Synod a Catechism, had attended to the duty assigned them, and laid upon the table a copy of the result of their labours.

Resolved 1. That the above committee are entitled to the thanks of this Synod, for the attention bestowed by them on this important business.

2. That, as the General Synod do not deem it expedient at the present session to adopt a Catechism for publication, a committee be appointed to examine the materials reported, and to report thereon, with such remarks and additions as they may deem necessary, at the meeting of the next General Synod.

The Rev. Messrs. G. Schober, S. S. Schmucker, D. F. Schaeffer and J. Herbst were appointed as the committee.

The minutes of the several Synods were distributed to different committees, with directions to report such parts of their contents as properly claim the attention of this Synod. Prayer being offered, the Synod adjourned to 3 o'clock P. M.

Monday afternoon, 3 o'clock.

The session being opened with prayer, the different reports upon the minutes of the several Synods were read, whereupon it was resolved :

1. That the substance of these reports be embodied in a general address, in the name of the General Synod, to our several Churches.
2. That for this purpose a committee be appointed, who shall add such other facts and observations, as may be deemed interesting and profitable to the Churches.
3. That the Rev. S. S. Schmucker and the Secretary compose the committee, and report to this Synod as early as practicable.

The following resolution was then offered and unanimously adopted :

Resolved : "that it is with feelings of the deepest regret that we learn from the minutes of the Synod of Pennsylvania; that they were induced by peculiar circumstances,

for the present, to recede from an institution, which they aided in establishing, & which they still profess to regard as proper and highly beneficial to the interests of the Church : but that this Synod entertain the highest confidence in their brethren of Pennsylvania, and confidently trust, that they will without delay resume their connexion with the General Synod.

The delegates of Maryland and Virginia then offered for consideration the following resolutions, as proposed by their Synod, which were unanimously adopted :

- Res. 1. That a committee of three be elected (of which the President of the General Synod shall be *ex-officio* a member) who shall be entitled “ *The Committee of Foreign Correspondence.* ”
2. That this committee shall enter on and maintain a correspondence in the name of the General Synod, with the Principals of the Lutheran Church in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and particularly with the directors of the orphan house at Halle, and the Principal of the University of Göttingen.
3. The subject of this correspondence shall be, to communicate and to obtain correct information relative to the spiritual prosperity of our Church, in the several empires, kingdoms and places above mentioned, to promote the unity of the Church, and to invite the prayers and exertions of each other, for the prosperity of the Church of Christ in the world.
4. That this committee report at the meeting of every General Synod.
5. That from the reports of this committee, extracts shall be given and printed in the minutes of the General Synod, and that from these letters, correspondence &c. and all other authentic sources, an account of the state of our Church throughout the world, shall from time to time be published with the minutes.
6. That the expenses of this correspondence be defrayed from the treasury of the General Synod.

To this committee were elected Rev. J. G. Schmucker and G. Schober. The Rev. Dr. Kurtz, being Pres. of this Synod, is *ex-officio* a member during his presidency.

The Rev. S. S. Schmucker reported, that the Synod of Maryland and Virginia had, agreeably to the advice of the General Synod, reconsidered the case of the Rev. Riemenschneider, and, that after the most mature deliberation they had confirmed their former decision.

Prayer was offered and an adjournment to 7 o'clock P. M. agreed to : as several brethren, from a great distance, were anxious to return to their flocks which were more or less distressed by the prevalent disease of the season.

7 o'clock P. M.

The session was, as usual, opened by an address to the throne of grace.

The Formula for the Government and Discipline of the Lutheran Church in Maryland and Virginia, adopted by that Synod and submitted for the sanction of the General Synod, was carefully examined, and after mature consideration, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

Resolved : That this Synod regard the principles of said Formula of Government and discipline as fully accordant with Scripture and the dictates of sound reason ; that they highly approve of its adoption, and that the Secretary shall communicate to said Synod the alterations recommended by the General Synod.

It being 10 o'clock, prayer was offered and the Synod adjourned to the ensuing day at 9 o'clock A. M.

Tuesday Oct. 21st, 9 o'clock A. M.

The meeting having been opened by prayer, the address, embodying the most interesting contents of the minutes of the several Synods, &c. &c. was read, adopted unanimously and ordered to be appended to the minutes of this Synod.

Some time was now spent in a fraternal, edifying and

profitable conversation on the present condition, the future prospects, and the prominent interests of the Church.

It was then resolved that 500 copies of these minutes be printed, and distributed in the following manner :

100 Copies to the *Synod of Pennsylvania.*

100 - - - - - *Carolina.*

125 - - - - - *Maryland.*

50 - - - - - *Ohio.*

25 - - - - - *New-York.*

The time and place of the next General Synod were determined by ballot ; viz. the first Sunday in November A. D. 1825, in Fredericktown. (Md.)

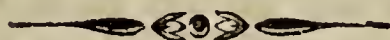
On bended knees, and with hearts filled with holy emotion, the brethren then united with the Rev. J. G. Schmucker, in a most impressive address to the mercy seat of Christ, in an acknowledgement of gratitude for the past blessing of the great Head of the Church, and in humble supplication for the future guidance of his Holy Spirit. "And when they had sung an hymn," they separated, to return to their several abodes.

That the above is an exact copy of the minutes of the second Evang. Lutheran General Synod, held at Fredericktown, (Md.) October 1823,

I do hereby certify

DAVID F. SCHAEFFER, Secretary.

ADDRESS
OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD,
TO THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN THE
UNITED STATES.



The General Synod of the Ev. Luth. Church to the members of the said Church in the United States : “ Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Being convened, agreeably to the appointment of the General Synod of 1821, and having, in the fear of God, and in dependance on him who promised to be with his disciples even unto the end, discharged the duties imposed on this body by the constitution ; we cannot terminate our session without first addressing to you some of the sentiments of our hearts, and communicating some prominent facts relative to the state of our Church in the world. And first, we feel bound to give gratitude to God for the prosperity and rapid extension of our Church in this our favoured country. Only a few years have elapsed since the number of our ministers and Churches, in this country, was small indeed ; but so copiously has the blessing of our God been bestowed upon us, that we now count near nine hundred Churches and about 175 ministers. Our Church, which was originally embraced in two independent Synods, has spread over so extensive a portion of the United States, that at present we have 5 Synods, and shall shortly have several more. But as these several Synods had no constitutional connexion with each other, it had long been a sub-

ject of very serious apprehension to the most enlightened and devoted friends of the Church, that these several branches would gradually recede farther and farther from each other, and that much diversity in doctrine and practice, and a want of that special affection which we owe to each other as members of the same Church, might ultimately ensue. Under these circumstances, we feel grateful to the great Head of the Church for the establishment of the General Synod, the object of which is, and the tendency of which must be, to augment the density of the ecclesiastical relation of the remote portion of our Church, and to draw still closer the bonds of fraternal affection by which they are united; and we rejoice in the continued existence and increasing popularity of this institution, so loudly called for by the rapid extension of our Church, so perfectly accordant with the dictates of reason and scripture, and so happily calculated to preserve the union and promote the prosperity of our Lutheran Zion. The General Synod “thank their God, through Jesus Christ,” for the pleasing facts which have been before them, on which the preceding statements are founded, and rejoice that the spirit of piety and zeal is advancing throughout their borders. They have heard with feelings of the deepest interest, the earnest calls of the children of the Church and of others, resident on our frontier countries, to have the word of eternal life preached unto them; and have observed with regret that in many instances no provision could be made to send to them the glad tidings of salvation: they would therefore invite the prayers of the Church to the Lord of the harvest, to raise up and qualify and send forth many labourers in his harvest; they would exhort their members to liberality in their contributions to the missionary funds of the respective Synods; and especially they would exhort the several Synods to persevere in their evangelic habit of annually sending missionaries to preach the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Dear Brethren, that you may obtain definite views of the extent and condition of our Church in the world, we

will communicate to you some information relative to its principal parts. On the present occasion we shall make our own country the subject of our chief attention ; but from the preceding minutes of our session you will perceive that we have taken measures to obtain, statedly, the most definite and accurate information relative to our Church throughout the world, by a permanent correspondence with the heads of the Church in various kingdoms of the earth. So that we flatter ourselves the minutes of every future General Synod, will contain an interesting and authentic narrative on this important subject. The ancient and venerable

SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA

is rapidly increasing both in members and in ministers, and we trust that much good is doing in the name of our blessed Saviour Jesus. From the minutes of the session of the present year, which was held at *Lebanon*, it appears that that body consists of 74 ministers, who have the pastoral charge of upwards of 278 Churches : that between the session of 1822 & 23 they admitted to membership by baptism 6445, admitted to sacramental communion by confirmation 2750, that the whole number of communicants is 24,794, and that there are under the superintendence of the different Churches 208 congregational schools. Whilst the General Synod, with due deference to the judgment of this respectable Synod, cannot divest themselves of doubt as to the expediency of the temporary recession of the Pennsylvania Synod from the general union of the Lutheran Church ; they rejoice that in the very act of withdrawing, they declare their unaltered conviction of the propriety and utility of such a union, and intimate that their recession shall continue only until the prejudices against the General Synod shall in some measure have subsided. But, most of all, the General Synod rejoices in the measures which have already been taken by the brethren west of the *Sasquehanna*, among whose Churches these prejudices do not exist, to return to the

general union of the Lutheran Church. From the minutes of the last session of the

SYNOD OF NEW-YORK,

which was held at Livingston, Columbia Co. it appears that the ministry of that body consists of 20 members, that during the past year they admitted to church-membership by baptism 1179, admitted to sacramental communion by confirmation 277, and that the whole number of their communicants is 3114. The General Synod cannot deny themselves the pleasure of expressing the gratification which they received from the perusal of the minutes of this Synod, which contain abundant evidence of the zeal and activity pervading that respectable body. The "*Hartwick Seminary*," an institution incorporated in 1816 and patronized by this Synod, the Principal of which must always be a Lutheran preacher, and the majority of the trustees, members of the Lutheran Church, is in the most flourishing condition. This Synod have also taken measures to enlarge the theological department of this institution, and have appropriated a sum of money for the enlargement of the theological library, already containing about 1000 volumes. Several young men have been sent forth from this institution into the vineyard of the Lord, and the number now pursuing theological studies is *ten* ; who promise, at a future day, to be highly useful to the cause of Christ. The

SYNOD OF NORTH-CAROLINA AND THE ADJOINING STATES

held their last meeting in Rowan County, and from the minutes of their proceedings it appears, that the ministry of that Synod contains 19 members, that during the current year they had admitted to church-membership by baptism 434 children and 13 adults, admitted to sacramental communion by confirmation 220, and that the aggregate number of their communicants is upwards of 1358. Whilst the General Synod disclaim the intention which has, perhaps, through want of better knowledge,

sometimes been attributed to them, namely, to form a union of different denominations ; one object at which they aim certainly is, to prevent discord and schism among the different portions of the Lutheran Church. It is therefore with much pleasure that they perceive, that the Carolina Synod adopted measures at their last session, to bring about, if possible, a reconciliation with several brethren who had seceded from them. And the General Synod cannot forbear recommending to both parties the exercise of that charity, toleration and forbearance which were so illustriously exemplified in the life of our divine Redeemer, and urging on them the impressive declaration of his apostle : “ follow after charity ; ” “ charity suffereth long and is kind,” “ seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked,” “ charity beareth all things,” “ hopeth all things, endureth all things : ” therefore “ we beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,” “ that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

THE SYNOD OF OHIO,

at present consists of about 26 ministers. Their parochial reports of baptism &c. during the current year cannot be given, as their session having but lately been held, we have not yet received their last minutes. From the former minutes of this Synod and other sources of information, it appears that they are actively engaged in doing the work of the Lord. Numerous applications are made to them by persons living remote from them, to have the word of eternal life preached unto them, and the Synod are making every possible exertion to meet these calls.

THE SYNOD OF MARYLAND & VIRGINIA

at present contains 22 ministers. During the last year they admitted to church-membership by baptism 1420, admitted to sacramental communion by confirmation 650, and the aggregate number of their communicants is 4935.

The General Synod perceive with pleasure, that their brethren of this Synod have paid peculiar attention to the Government and Discipline of their churches, and have submitted for the sanction of this body a "*Formula*" or Directory, which in their judgment is accordant both with scripture and sound reason, whilst it also perfectly harmonizes with the established principles of the Luth. Church. An acquaintance with the history of the Christian Church in past ages, as well as a knowledge of her present condition throughout the world, establishes the fact, that mankind are prone, on this subject, to fall into contrary extremes; some maintaining that if our external conduct be correct it matters not what we believe, and others contending that as long as our creed is sound, the Church has little to do with our private deportment. But the principle which the General Synod conceive to be taught in Scripture, and which they would recommend to the church at large, is this: that we should view with charity, and treat with forbearance, those who have fallen into an aberration of nonfundamental importance either from the faith or the practice of the Bible and the Augsburg Confession; and on the other hand, that we are bound "*not to eat with a fornicator, or a covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner,*" but to "*put away from among us such wicked persons,*" and that "*a man that is an heretick,*" who denies a fundamental doctrine, a doctrine essential to the Christian scheme, we are in like manner bound "*after the first and second admonition to reject.*"

THE GERMAN EV. LUTH. CONFERENCE OF TENNESSEE,

commenced their last meeting in Sinking-Spring Church, in Green County, on the third Sunday of October; but their minutes having not yet left the press, we have not seen their parochial reports of this year. From the minutes of the session of 1822 it appears that their body then consisted of 6 Pastors and 4 Deacons. Urgent ap-

plications were made to our brethren of this conference, from persons resident in Missouri and elsewhere, to have the gospel preached unto them, and every possible arrangement was made to meet these requests. The brethren of this Conference as well as individuals in some other sections of the United States, have heretofore doubted the utility of the General Synod ; but it is hoped their apprehensions will be dissipated, when a few years of experience shall have demonstrated its utility, and when maturer reflection on the nature of our constitution shall have convinced them, that if ever our Church at large should so far degenerate, as that a majority of any future General Synod should not only be so void of common Christian integrity, but so destitute of every sentiment of probity and honour, as to wish those evils which have been feared, still even then the attainment of them would, in our happy government, be physically and civilly impossible.

Turning our eyes from our own country to continental Europe, which is the principal seat of Lutheranism, and in which the Lutheran Church is more numerous than all the other protestant churches together ; numerous circumstances of interest and utility present themselves to our view. But not wishing to prolong this address to an undue length ; we shall limit ourselves to some statistical and general views ; and as the situation of

GERMANY including PRUSSIA, HUNGARIA & FRANCE,

are more generally known to our churches, we shall merely state that by a calculation made from the most authentic sources, they contain considerably more than 17 millions of Lutherans. In

DENMARK,

in which the Lutheran is the established religion, in which the king must profess the Augsburg Confession and maintain it throughout the kingdom, the government of our Church, as is well known, is Episcopal. The kingdom is divided into the following Diocesses : the diocess

of *Sealand*, the bishop of which resides at Copenhagen; the diocese of *Funen*, the bishop's residence at Odensee; the diocese of *Rypen*, the bishop's residence at Rypen; the diocese of *Aarhus*, the bishop's residence at Aarhus; the diocese of *Wiborg*, the residence of the bishop at Wiborg; and the diocese of *Aalborg*, the bishop of which resides in Aalborg. The government of ecclesiastical affairs is distributed among these 6 bishops; and there are in the whole 3272 parishes. In *Sleswig & Holstein*, there are no bishops; and the management of ecclesiastical affairs is committed to the care of General Superintendents. The members of our church in this kingdom amount to upwards of 900,000. The Ferroe Islands, north of Scotland belong to Denmark and are Lutheran. They contain 1 superintendent, 7 pastors, 39 churches and about 40,000 Lutherans. In

NORWAY

there are 4 dioceses, the bishops of which reside at *Christiania* (the capital of the country,) *Christiansand*, *Bergen*, & *Drontheim*, and have the management of the affairs of all the churches. The Department of Aggerhus alone contains 111 parishes. *Iceland* has 46,000 Lutherans. Holum one of its principal towns, formerly was the seat of a bishop; but his diocese is merged in that of *Reinkenrick* or *Skalholt*, the jurisdiction of whose bishop extends over the whole island. There are in all Iceland 189 parishes; the pastors are all natives, and have studied principally at Copenhagen. Norway proper contains about 700,000 Lutherans. In

SWEDEN,

in which likewise, Lutheranism is the established religion, the ecclesiastical affairs are administered by the *Archbishop of Upsala* (which venerable station is at present filled by the Rev. Dr. Rosenstein,) together with the *bishops of Linkiæping, Skara, Strengnæs, Ibesteræs, Ibexiæ, Abo, Lund, Borgo, Gæthaburg, Calmar, Karlstadt, Hernöesanst,*

Gothland & Stockholm. The whole church is divided into 192 ecclesiastical circles (probsteyen) which contain about 2,800,000 members. In

LAPLAND

there are numerous Lutheran Churches, the principal of which are at Asele; Lyksela; Jockmock; Gelliware, *which is situated directly under the Arctic or North polar circle*; at Jukasjerswi; at Enontekis, *where the sun in summer is visible 49 days uninterruptedly*; at Utsjoki, which is 69 degrees 51 min. 52 sec. north latitude; at Kamuso, and at Enara. The religion of

FINLAND

is Lutheran. The country is divided into two Diocesses which are under the jurisdiction of the bishops of *Abo* and of *Borgo*.

As criteria by which we may in some degree estimate the tone of evangelical feeling pervading these several countries, the following circumstances relative to their Bible-societies, may not be uninteresting to the Church. The ministers and people take a deep interest in the dissemination of the holy volume. The fourth Report of the Danish Bible-society states, that "the eagerness to possess the Bible is increasing throughout the kingdom — many copies have been sent to the ministers for distribution among the poor & among the young after their confirmation. A number of copies has also been forwarded to Iceland, to Greenland and the west India Islands." The gospel of Matthew has been translated into the *Ferroe* language for the use of the inhabitants of those islands. The Bible-societies in Denmark are particularly active and efficient. In the sixth year of her existence, the mother society of Denmark issued 11,320 Bibles and had 36 auxiliaries. Nor are the societies of Sweden and Norway deficient in activity and zeal. Their plans are extensive and their labours great. In concluding this subject, we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of quoting to you the impressive

words which fell from the lips of the aged and venerable president of the Swedish Bible-society at their meeting in Stockholm, and which cannot fail to reach the heart of every follower of Jesus and especially of every Lutheran Christian: "There was a period" (said he) still fresh in the memory of many, when some predicted that the era was fast approaching when there would be no Bible to be found, except in large libraries, and covered with dust, to remain as a memorial of the superstition of our ancestors. They did not consider, that had such predictions been verified, the pillar which supports the civil government would have been removed, society at large would have lost its best security, and suffering humanity her best consolations. What would these airy schemers now say, could they rise from the dark tombs into which they have descended without hope, if they were to behold what indescribable evils have been produced by their doctrines, or if they should see that sacred book, which was once the object of their coldhearted derision, now circulated throughout the whole world, anxiously inquired for by multitudes, and received with veneration and gratitude? What would they say, could they see princes and other exalted personages, and thousands of the various classes of society considering it their delightful duty to become fellow labourers in paying homage to this important object, and by this means fulfilling the immutable truth of that divine declaration: "*as I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue confess to God?*" The number of Lutherans in

RUSSIA

has been estimated at upwards of 2,000,000, which is however perhaps overrated: 1,500,000 would be a moderate estimate. Relative to the state and number of our Churches in

AFRICA, EAST-INDIA, HELVETIA & THE NETHERLANDS,

the General Synod cannot, at present, communicate any definite information. It appears, however, upon a general

survey, agreeably to the preceding estimates, which are certainly below the true ratio, that those followers of Christ, who bear also the name of the illustrious Luther, amount, throughout the world, to upwards of 20,000,000 ; their number has indeed been estimated by good authors at 28,000,000. In concluding this address, the General Synod would join their Churches, and their fellow Christians at large, in offering their sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the great Head of the Church, for those cheering scenes of evangelical and catholic exertions for the salvation of the human family, which the Christian world has of late years witnessed, in prayer for the rapid and general diffusion of the holy, heavenly, saving principles of the Gospel of Christ, and in commending the Church and all her interest, to the protection and the guidance and the blessing of Him, who promised that the gates of hell should never prevail against her.

That the above is a correct copy of the Minutes of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, held at Fredericktown October 1821, is certified by

David F. Schaeffer, Sec'y.

A P P E N D I X.

Extract from the Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina.

From the minutes of the Synod of North Carolina, it appears, that said Synod met on the 17th of June 1821, at Laus' Church. There were present 13 Ministers, and 9 Lay-delegates. The Ministers present had baptized during the preceding year 578 children, 47 adults, confirmed 220, buried 108. The number of communicants is not reported.

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The result of the conference was : "that any Minister, in connection with the synod, shall be entitled to a seat in the Episcopal convention of North Carolina with the privilege of voting upon all subjects, that do not appertain to the Episcopal church, and vice versa. The committee on behalf of the Episcopal church, also offered to the Synod, to educate and prepare for the Ministry, gratuitously, any Student, it might recommend, at their Seminary in Newhaven.

Upon the whole, it is evident, that our church in North Carolina, enjoys the favour of our Lord, and in defiance of various difficulties, continues to increase; but it is also evident, that the harvest is great, and the labourers few.

At this Synod a very interesting letter was received, from the Rev. Mr. Bergman, who has charge of a respectable congregation, at Ebenezer, in the State of Georgia. A correspondence was commenced, between the Synod and Mr. Bergman, from which much information may be expected, respecting the state of our church in those remote parts of our country.

18.

MINUTES
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OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD,
OF THE
EVANG. LUTH. CHURCH
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Convened at Fredericktown (Md.)
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YORK:

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1823,

1897-1898

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FOR THE YEAR 1897.

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MINUTES, &c.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND GENERAL SYNOD OF THE EV. LUTH. CHURCH, &c.

THE Clergy & Lay-delegates, elected by the several Synods as members of the Ev. Lutheran General Synod, assembled in the Lutheran church on Sunday at 11 o'clock A. M. where the Rev. J. G. SCHMUCKER delivered an impressive discourse. The Rev. J. SHERER preached in the afternoon, and the Rev. S. S. SCHMUCKER at candlelight.

Monday, Oct. 20th, 9 o'clock A. M.

The session was opened by singing a hymn, and prayer to the great Shepherd of souls. The minutes of the Synods and letters introductory were then laid on the table, from which it appeared that the following brethren were elected as delegates from the different district Synods :

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Rev. DANIEL SHERER, | } | from the Synod of <i>North-Carolina.</i> |
| - JACOB SHERER, | | |
| Mr. MICHAEL MILLER, | | |
| - PETER SUMMER, | | |
| Rev. PETER SCHMUCKER, | } | Synod of <i>Ohio.</i> |
| - J. STECK, | | |
| Rev. DANIEL KURTZ, D. D. | } | from the Synod of <i>Maryland</i> & <i>Virginia.</i> |
| - DAVID F. SCHAEFFER, A. M. | | |
| Mr. JOHN EBERT, Esq. | | |
| - JOHN ALBERT, | | |

| | | |
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| Rev. J. G. SCHMUCKER, | } | appointed by the Conference of the ministers west of the Susquehanna belonging to the Synod of <i>Pennsylvania</i> . |
| - J. HERBST, | | |
| Rev. S. S. SCHMUCKER, A. M. | } | were appointed by au- thority of the Synod of Maryland & Virginia, <i>vice</i> two absent de- legates of said Synod. |
| Mr. F. LœHR, | | |

Several delegates were absent in consequence of indisposition, but a representation of a majority of the Synods in connexion with the General Synod being present, the brethren, in reliance on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, proceeded to business. The Synod proceeded to ballot for its officers, upon which it appeared that the following persons were elected :

Rev. D. KURTZ, D. D. President.
- D. F. SCHAEFFER, A. M. Secretary.
Mr. C. A. BARNITZ, Esq. Treasurer.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. C. A. Barnitz, Treasurer of this Synod, reporting that no money had yet been sent to the Treasury, and expressing his best wishes and the assurance of his most earnest prayers for the prosperity of this Synod.

Resolved : that the Secretary address a letter of thanks to our Brother C. A. Barnitz, Esq.

The minutes of the General Synod of 1821 were then read.

The Rev. J. G. Schmucker & Rev. J. Herbst now presented themselves as a deputation of the Special Conference of the members of the Pennsylvania Synod, residing west of the Susquehanna, held at York, Oct. 6th 7th 1823, and laid on the table the minutes of said Conference.

Resolved : that this Synod is highly gratified by the presence of this respectable deputation, together with the minutes of the Special Conference, and more especially with the resolutions contained in them in support of the General Synod.

The Rev. J. G. Schmucker reported, that the Committee appointed by the last General Synod to compose and sub-

mit to this Synod a Catechism, had attended to the duty assigned them, and laid upon the table a copy of the result of their labours.

Resolved 1. That the above committee are entitled to the thanks of this Synod, for the attention bestowed by them on this important business.

2. That, as the General Synod do not deem it expedient at the present session to adopt a Catechism for publication, a committee be appointed to examine the materials reported, and to report thereon, with such remarks and additions as they may deem necessary, at the meeting of the next General Synod.

The Rev. Messrs. G. Schober, S. S. Schmucker, D. F. Schaeffer and J. Herbst were appointed as the committee.

The minutes of the several Synods were distributed to different committees, with directions to report such parts of their contents as properly claim the attention of this Synod. Prayer being offered, the Synod adjourned to 3 o'clock P. M.

Monday afternoon, 3 o'clock.

The session being opened with prayer, the different reports upon the minutes of the several Synods were read, whereupon it was resolved :

1. That the substance of these reports be embodied in a general address, in the name of the General Synod, to our several Churches.
2. That for this purpose a committee be appointed, who shall add such other facts and observations, as may be deemed interesting and profitable to the Churches.
3. That the Rev. S. S. Schmucker and the Secretary compose the committee, and report to this Synod as early as practicable.

The following resolution was then offered and unanimously adopted :

Resolved : "that it is with feelings of the deepest regret that we learn from the minutes of the Synod of Pennsylvania; that they were induced by peculiar circumstances.

for the present, to recede from an institution, which they aided in establishing, & which they still profess to regard as proper and highly beneficial to the interests of the Church : but that this Synod entertain the highest confidence in their brethren of Pennsylvania, and confidently trust, that they will without delay resume their connexion with the General Synod.

The delegates of Maryland and Virginia then offered for consideration the following resolutions, as proposed by their Synod, which were unanimously adopted :

- Res. 1. That a committee of three be elected (of which the President of the General Synod shall be *ex-officio* a member) who shall be entitled “ *The Committee of Foreign Correspondence.* ”
2. That this committee shall enter on and maintain a correspondence in the name of the General Synod, with the Principals of the Lutheran Church in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and particularly with the directors of the orphan house at Halle, and the Principal of the University of Göttingen.
3. The subject of this correspondence shall be, to communicate and to obtain correct information relative to the spiritual prosperity of our Church, in the several empires, kingdoms and places above mentioned, to promote the unity of the Church, and to invite the prayers and exertions of each other, for the prosperity of the Church of Christ in the world.
4. That this committee report at the meeting of every General Synod.
5. That from the reports of this committee, extracts shall be given and printed in the minutes of the General Synod, and that from these letters, correspondence &c. and all other authentic sources, an account of the state of our Church throughout the world, shall from time to time be published with the minutes.
6. That the expenses of this correspondence be defrayed from the treasury of the General Synod.

To this committee were elected Rev. J. G. Schmucker and G. Schober. The Rev. Dr. Kurtz, being Pres. of this Synod, is *ex-officio* a member during his presidency.

The Rev. S. S. Schmucker reported, that the Synod of Maryland and Virginia had, agreeably to the advice of the General Synod, reconsidered the case of the Rev. Riemenschneider, and, that after the most mature deliberation they had confirmed their former decision.

Prayer was offered and an adjournment to 7 o'clock P. M. agreed to : as several brethren, from a great distance, were anxious to return to their flocks which were more or less distressed by the prevalent disease of the season.

7 o'clock P. M.

The session was, as usual, opened by an address to the throne of grace.

The Formula for the Government and Discipline of the Lutheran Church in Maryland and Virginia, adopted by that Synod and submitted for the sanction of the General Synod, was carefully examined, and after mature consideration, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

Resolved : That this Synod regard the principles of said Formula of Government and discipline as fully accordant with Scripture and the dictates of sound reason ; that they highly approve of its adoption, and that the Secretary shall communicate to said Synod the alterations recommended by the General Synod.

It being 10 o'clock, prayer was offered and the Synod adjourned to the ensuing day at 9 o'clock A. M.

Tuesday Oct. 21st, 9 o'clock A. M.

The meeting having been opened by prayer, the address, embodying the most interesting contents of the minutes of the several Synods, &c. &c. was read, adopted unanimously and ordered to be appended to the minutes of this Synod.

Some time was now spent in a fraternal, edifying and

profitable conversation on the present condition, the future prospects, and the prominent interests of the Church.

It was then resolved that 500 copies of these minutes be printed, and distributed in the following manner :

100 Copies to the *Synod of Pennsylvania.*

100 - - - - - *Carolina.*

125 - - - - - *Maryland.*

50 - - - - - *Ohio.*

25 - - - - - *New-York.*

The time and place of the next General Synod were determined by ballot ; viz. the first Sunday in November A. D. 1825, in Fredericktown. (Md.)

On bended knees, and with hearts filled with holy emotion, the brethren then united with the Rev. J. G. Schmucker, in a most impressive address to the mercy seat of Christ, in an acknowledgement of gratitude for the past blessing of the great Head of the Church, and in humble supplication for the future guidance of his Holy Spirit. "And when they had sung an hymn," they separated, to return to their several abodes.

That the above is an exact copy of the minutes of the second Evang. Lutheran General Synod, held at Fredericktown, (Md.) October 1823,

I do hereby certify

DAVID F. SCHAEFFER, Secretary.

ADDRESS

OF THE

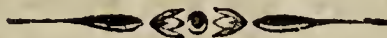
GENERAL SYNOD,

TO THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN THE

UNITED STATES.



The General Synod of the Ev. Luth. Church to the members of the said Church in the United States: "Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Being convened, agreeably to the appointment of the General Synod of 1821, and having, in the fear of God, and in dependance on him who promised to be with his disciples even unto the end, discharged the duties imposed on this body by the constitution; we cannot terminate our session without first addressing to you some of the sentiments of our hearts, and communicating some prominent facts relative to the state of our Church in the world. And first, we feel bound to give gratitude to God for the prosperity and rapid extension of our Church in this our favoured country. Only a few years have elapsed since the number of our ministers and Churches, in this country, was small indeed; but so copiously has the blessing of our God been bestowed upon us, that we now count near nine hundred Churches and about 175 ministers. Our Church, which was originally embraced in two independent Synods, has spread over so extensive a portion of the United States, that at present we have 5 Synods, and shall shortly have several more. But as these several Synods had no constitutional connexion with each other, it had long been a sub-

ject of very serious apprehension to the most enlightened and devoted friends of the Church, that these several branches would gradually recede farther and farther from each other, and that much diversity in doctrine and practice, and a want of that special affection which we owe to each other as members of the same Church, might ultimately ensue. Under these circumstances, we feel grateful to the great Head of the Church for the establishment of the General Synod, the object of which is, and the tendency of which must be, to augment the density of the ecclesiastical relation of the remote portion of our Church, and to draw still closer the bonds of fraternal affection by which they are united; and we rejoice in the continued existence and increasing popularity of this institution, so loudly called for by the rapid extension of our Church, so perfectly accordant with the dictates of reason and scripture, and so happily calculated to preserve the union and promote the prosperity of our Lutheran Zion. The General Synod "thank their God, through Jesus Christ," for the pleasing facts which have been before them, on which the preceding statements are founded, and rejoice that the spirit of piety and zeal is advancing throughout their borders. They have heard with feelings of the deepest interest, the earnest calls of the children of the Church and of others, resident on our frontier countries, to have the word of eternal life preached unto them; and have observed with regret that in many instances no provision could be made to send to them the glad tidings of salvation: they would therefore invite the prayers of the Church to the Lord of the harvest, to raise up and qualify and send forth many labourers in his harvest; they would exhort their members to liberality in their contributions to the missionary funds of the respective Synods; and especially they would exhort the several Synods to persevere in their evangelic habit of annually sending missionaries to preach the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Dear Brethren, that you may obtain definite views of the extent and condition of our Church in the world, we

will communicate to you some information relative to its principal parts. On the present occasion we shall make our own country the subject of our chief attention ; but from the preceding minutes of our session you will perceive that we have taken measures to obtain, statedly, the most definite and accurate information relative to our Church throughout the world, by a permanent correspondence with the heads of the Church in various kingdoms of the earth. So that we flatter ourselves the minutes of every future General Synod, will contain an interesting and authentic narrative on this important subject. The ancient and venerable

SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA

is rapidly increasing both in members and in ministers, and we trust that much good is doing in the name of our blessed Saviour Jesus. From the minutes of the session of the present year, which was held at *Lebanon*, it appears that that body consists of 74 ministers, who have the pastoral charge of upwards of 278 Churches : that between the session of 1822 & 23 they admitted to membership by baptism 6445, admitted to sacramental communion by confirmation 2750, that the whole number of communicants is 24,794, and that there are under the superintendence of the different Churches 208 congregational schools. Whilst the General Synod, with due deference to the judgment of this respectable Synod, cannot divest themselves of doubt as to the expediency of the temporary recession of the Pennsylvania Synod from the general union of the Lutheran Church ; they rejoice that in the very act of withdrawing, they declare their unaltered conviction of the propriety and utility of such a union, and intimate that their recession shall continue only until the prejudices against the General Synod shall in some measure have subsided. But, most of all, the General Synod rejoices in the measures which have already been taken by the brethren west of the Susquehanna, among whose Churches these prejudices do not exist, to return to the

general union of the Lutheran Church. From the minutes of the last session of the

SYNOD OF NEW-YORK,

which was held at Livingston, Columbia Co. it appears that the ministry of that body consists of 20 members, that during the past year they admitted to church-membership by baptism 1179, admitted to sacramental communion by confirmation 277, and that the whole number of their communicants is 3114. The General Synod cannot deny themselves the pleasure of expressing the gratification which they received from the perusal of the minutes of this Synod, which contain abundant evidence of the zeal and activity pervading that respectable body. The "*Hartwick Seminary*," an institution incorporated in 1816 and patronized by this Synod, the Principal of which must always be a Lutheran preacher, and the majority of the trustees, members of the Lutheran Church, is in the most flourishing condition. This Synod have also taken measures to enlarge the theological department of this institution, and have appropriated a sum of money for the enlargement of the theological library, already containing about 1000 volumes. Several young men have been sent forth from this institution into the vineyard of the Lord, and the number now pursuing theological studies is *ten*; who promise, at a future day, to be highly useful to the cause of Christ. The

SYNOD OF NORTH-CAROLINA AND THE ADJOINING STATES

held their last meeting in Rowan County, and from the minutes of their proceedings it appears, that the ministry of that Synod contains 19 members, that during the current year they had admitted to church-membership by baptism 434 children and 13 adults, admitted to sacramental communion by confirmation 220, and that the aggregate number of their communicants is upwards of 1358. Whilst the General Synod disclaim the intention which has, perhaps, through want of better knowledge,

sometimes been attributed to them, namely, to form a union of different denominations ; one object at which they aim certainly is, to prevent discord and schism among the different portions of the Lutheran Church. It is therefore with much pleasure that they perceive, that the Carolina Synod adopted measures at their last session, to bring about, if possible, a reconciliation with several brethren who had seceded from them. And the General Synod cannot forbear recommending to both parties the exercise of that charity, toleration and forbearance which were so illustriously exemplified in the life of our divine Redeemer, and urging on them the impressive declaration of his apostle : “ follow after charity ; ” “ charity suffereth long and is kind,” “ seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked,” “ charity beareth all things,” “ hopeth all things, endureth all things : ” therefore “ we beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ” “ that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

THE SYNOD OF OHIO,

at present consists of about 26 ministers. Their parochial reports of baptism &c. during the current year cannot be given, as their session having but lately been held, we have not yet received their last minutes. From the former minutes of this Synod and other sources of information, it appears that they are actively engaged in doing the work of the Lord. Numerous applications are made to them by persons living remote from them, to have the word of eternal life preached unto them, and the Synod are making every possible exertion to meet these calls.

THE SYNOD OF MARYLAND & VIRGINIA

at present contains 22 ministers. During the last year they admitted to church-membership by baptism 1420, admitted to sacramental communion by confirmation 650, and the aggregate number of their communicants is 4935.

The General Synod perceive with pleasure, that their brethren of this Synod have paid peculiar attention to the Government and Discipline of their churches, and have submitted for the sanction of this body a "*Formula*" or Directory, which in their judgment is accordant both with scripture and sound reason, whilst it also perfectly harmonizes with the established principles of the Luth. Church. An acquaintance with the history of the Christian Church in past ages, as well as a knowledge of her present condition throughout the world, establishes the fact, that mankind are prone, on this subject, to fall into contrary extremes; some maintaining that if our external conduct be correct it matters not what we believe, and others contending that as long as our creed is sound, the Church has little to do with our private deportment. But the principle which the General Synod conceive to be taught in Scripture, and which they would recommend to the church at large, is this: that we should view with charity, and treat with forbearance, those who have fallen into an aberration of nonfundamental importance either from the faith or the practice of the Bible and the Augsburg Confession; and on the other hand, that we are bound "*not to eat with a fornicator, or a covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner,*" but to "*put away from among us such wicked persons,*" and that "*a man that is an heretick,*" who denies a fundamental doctrine, a doctrine essential to the Christian scheme, we are in like manner bound "*after the first and second admonition to reject.*"

THE GERMAN EV. LUTH. CONFERENCE OF TENNESSEE,

commenced their last meeting in Sinking-Spring Church, in Green County, on the third Sunday of October; but their minutes having not yet left the press, we have not seen their parochial reports of this year. From the minutes of the session of 1822 it appears that their body then consisted of 6 Pastors and 4 Deacons. Urgent ap-

plications were made to our brethren of this conference, from persons resident in Missouri and elsewhere, to have the gospel preached unto them, and every possible arrangement was made to meet these requests. The brethren of this Conference as well as individuals in some other sections of the United States, have heretofore doubted the utility of the General Synod ; but it is hoped their apprehensions will be dissipated, when a few years of experience shall have demonstrated its utility, and when maturer reflection on the nature of our constitution shall have convinced them, that if ever our Church at large should so far degenerate, as that a majority of any future General Synod should not only be so void of common Christian integrity, but so destitute of every sentiment of probity and honour, as to wish those evils which have been feared, still even then the attainment of them would, in our happy government, be physically and civilly impossible.

Turning our eyes from our own country to continental Europe, which is the principal seat of Lutheranism, and in which the Lutheran Church is more numerous than all the other protestant churches together ; numerous circumstances of interest and utility present themselves to our view. But not wishing to prolong this address to an undue length ; we shall limit ourselves to some statistical and general views ; and as the situation of

GERMANY including PRUSSIA, HUNGARIA & FRANCE,

are more generally known to our churches, we shall merely state that by a calculation made from the most authentic sources, they contain considerably more than 17 millions of Lutherans. In

DENMARK,

in which the Lutheran is the established religion, in which the king must profess the Augsburg Confession and maintain it throughout the kingdom, the government of our Church, as is well known, is Episcopal. The kingdom is divided into the following Diocesses : the diocess

of *Sealand*, the bishop of which resides at Copenhagen; the diocese of *Funen*, the bishop's residence at Odensee; the diocese of *Rypen*, the bishop's residence at Rypen; the diocese of *Aarhus*, the bishop's residence at Aarhus; the diocese of *Wiborg*, the residence of the bishop at Wiborg; and the diocese of *Aalborg*, the bishop of which resides in Aalborg. The government of ecclesiastical affairs is distributed among these 6 bishops; and there are in the whole 3272 parishes. In *Sleswig & Holstein*, there are no bishops; and the management of ecclesiastical affairs is committed to the care of General Superintendents. The members of our church in this kingdom amount to upwards of 900,000. The *Feroe Islands*, north of Scotland belong to Denmark and are Lutheran. They contain 1 superintendent, 7 pastors, 39 churches and about 40,000 Lutherans. In

NORWAY

there are 4 diocesses, the bishops of which reside at *Christiania* (the capital of the country,) *Christiansand*, *Bergen*, & *Drontheim*, and have the management of the affairs of all the churches. The Department of Aggerhus alone contains 111 parishes. *Iceland* has 46,000 Lutherans. *Holum* one of its principal towns, formerly was the seat of a bishop; but his diocese is merged in that of *Reinkenrick* or *Skalholt*, the jurisdiction of whose bishop extends over the whole island. There are in all Iceland 189 parishes; the pastors are all natives, and have studied principally at Copenhagen. Norway proper contains about 700,000 Lutherans. In

SWEDEN,

in which likewise, Lutheranism is the established religion, the ecclesiastical affairs are administered by the *Archbishop of Upsala* (which venerable station is at present filled by the Rev. Dr. Rosenstein,) together with the *bishops of Linkæping, Skara, Strengnæs, Ibesteræs, Ibexia, Abo, Lund, Borgo, Geethaburg, Calmar, Karlstadt, Herncesanst,*

Gothland & Stockholm. The whole church is divided into 192 ecclesiastical circles (probsteyen) which contain about 2,800,000 members. In

LAPLAND

there are numerous Lutheran Churches, the principal of which are at Asele; Lyksela; Jockinock; Gelliware, *which is situated directly under the Arctic or North polar circle*; at Jukasjerswi; at Enontekis, *where the sun in summer is visible 49 days uninterruptedly*; at Utsjoki, which is 69 degrees 51 min. 52 sec. north latitude; at Kamuso, and at Enara. The religion of

FINLAND

is Lutheran. The country is divided into two Diocesses which are under the jurisdiction of the bishops of *Abo* and of *Borgo*.

As criteria by which we may in some degree estimate the tone of evangelical feeling pervading these several countries, the following circumstances relative to their Bible-societies, may not be uninteresting to the Church. The ministers and people take a deep interest in the dissemination of the holy volume. The fourth Report of the Danish Bible-society states, that "the eagerness to possess the Bible is increasing throughout the kingdom — many copies have been sent to the ministers for distribution among the poor & among the young after their confirmation. A number of copies has also been forwarded to Iceland, to Greenland and the west India Islands." The gospel of Matthew has been translated into the *Ferroe* language for the use of the inhabitants of those islands. The Bible-societies in Denmark are particularly active and efficient. In the sixth year of her existence, the mother society of Denmark issued 11,320 Bibles and had 36 auxiliaries. Nor are the societies of Sweden and Norway deficient in activity and zeal. Their plans are extensive and their labours great. In concluding this subject, we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of quoting to you the impressive

words which fell from the lips of the aged and venerable president of the Swedish Bible-society at their meeting in Stockholm, and which cannot fail to reach the heart of every follower of Jesus and especially of every Lutheran Christian: "There was a period" (said he) still fresh in the memory of many, when some predicted that the era was fast approaching when there would be no Bible to be found, except in large libraries, and covered with dust, to remain as a memorial of the superstition of our ancestors. They did not consider, that had such predictions been verified, the pillar which supports the civil government would have been removed, society at large would have lost its best security, and suffering humanity her best consolations. What would these airy schemers now say, could they rise from the dark tombs into which they have descended without hope, if they were to behold what indescribable evils have been produced by their doctrines, or if they should see that sacred book, which was once the object of their coldhearted derision, now circulated throughout the whole world, anxiously inquired for by multitudes, and received with veneration and gratitude? What would they say, could they see princes and other exalted personages, and thousands of the various classes of society considering it their delightful duty to become fellow labourers in paying homage to this important object, and by this means fulfilling the immutable truth of that divine declaration: "*as I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue confess to God?*" The number of Lutherans in

RUSSIA

has been estimated at upwards of 2,000,000, which is however perhaps overrated: 1,500,000 would be a moderate estimate. Relative to the state and number of our Churches in

AFRICA, EAST-INDIA, HELVETIA & THE NETHERLANDS,

the General Synod cannot, at present, communicate any definite information. It appears, however, upon a general

survey, agreeably to the preceding estimates, which are certainly below the true ratio, that those followers of Christ, who bear also the name of the illustrious Luther, amount, throughout the world, to upwards of 20,000,000 ; their number has indeed been estimated by good authors at 28,000,000. In concluding this address, the General Synod would join their Churches, and their fellow Christians at large, in offering their sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the great Head of the Church, for those cheering scenes of evangelical and catholic exertions for the salvation of the human family, which the Christian world has of late years witnessed, in prayer for the rapid and general diffusion of the holy, heavenly, saving principles of the Gospel of Christ, and in commending the Church and all her interest, to the protection and the guidance and the blessing of Him, who promised that the gates of hell should never prevail against her.

MINUTES
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD,
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN THE
UNITED STATES ;
CONVENED AT FREDERICK, (Md.)
OCTOBER, 1825.



FREDERICK:
PRINTED BY CHARLES NAGLE.

1825.



MINUTES, &c.



MINUTES OF THE THIRD GENERAL SYNOD OF THE EVAN. LUTH. CHURCH, &c.

THE Clergy and Lay-delegates, elected by the several Synods, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran General Synod, assembled in the Lutheran Church, on Sunday, at 10 o'clock, when, after suitable Addresses, the Church was solemnly consecrated to the service of the Triune God. The Lord's Supper was then administered to the Clergy and Lay-members, present. The Rev. G. SHOBER preached in the afternoon, and the Rev. B. KELLER at candlelight.

Monday, Nov. 7—9 o'clock, A. M.

The Session was opened by singing a Hymn, and Prayer to the great Shepherd of Souls.

The Rev. President Dr. Kurtz then called for the credentials of those who were in attendance, from which it appeared that the following brethren were entitled to seats, as regular delegates from the different Synods.

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rev. ROTHRAUF, } | FROM | { Mr. HERSCH, |
| " J. HERBST, } | | { " KERNS, |
| " B. KELLER, } | PENNSYLVANIA. | { " BELL. |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Rev. G. SHOBER, } | From the Synod of | { Mr. P. HAUPTMAN, |
| " M. WALTER, } | North Carolina. | { " KECK. |

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER, } | From Mary- | { Mr. J. HARRY, |
| " B. KURTZ, } | land and | { " J. EBERT, |
| " S. S. SCHMUCKER } | Virginia. | { " C. MANTZ. |

The Synod now proceeded to the choice of its Officers, upon which it appeared that the following persons were elected, viz :

REV. **G. SHOBER**, *President*
D. F. SCHAEFFER, A. M. *Secretary.*
C. A. BARNITZ, ESQ. *Treasurer.*

The Rev. Dr. Kurtz, Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Correspondence, read a most interesting and lengthy Letter, received from the Rev. Dr. Plank.

Resolved, That the Committee of Foreign Correspondence present the thanks of this Synod to the Rev. Dr. Plank, for his interesting communication.

Resolved, That the Committee of Foreign Correspondence be a Standing Committee, and that the members thereof continue in office, until otherwise directed by a resolution of this Synod.

REV. DR KURTZ, DR SCHMUCKER, and REV. J. HERBST, were appointed.

The Secretary read an interesting Letter from the Rev. Dr. Schmucker, from which it appeared that the vessel by which he was to receive answers, to Letters written by him to Europe, was lost on the Northern Coast of Ireland.

Resolved, That Rev. B. Kurtz, J. Herbst, and S. S. Schmucker, be a Committee to examine and report to this Synod, the most prominent subjects contained in the Letter of Dr. Plank.

Afternoon—3 o'clock.

Committees were appointed to examine the Minutes of the several Synods—and it was Resolved, that they report thereon as early as possible.

The Committee to examine the Letter of Dr. Plank, made report. Upon which it was Ordered, that Rev. J. Herbst and S. S. Schmucker furnish the Secretary, as early as practicable, after the session of this Synod, with a translation of said Letter; and that the whole, or such part as may be deemed most interesting, be printed as an Appendix to the Minutes of this Synod.

Resolved, That 500 copies be printed in the German, and 1000 in the English language.

Rev. B. Kurtz read a Memorial, from W. P. Rowles, whereupon Rev. Messrs. B. Kurtz, J. Herbst, S. S. Schmucker, and Messrs. Hersch and Harry, were appointed a Committee to examine its contents more minutely, and to propose the manner of disposing of it.

Resolved, That Rev. B. Kurtz, J. Herbst, S. S. Schmucker, B. Keller, and Messrs. Harry and Hauptman, be a Committee to prepare a plan, for the establishment of a Theological Seminary, and that they govern themselves by the instructions which shall be given by this Synod.

The Synod having offered instructions to the Committee, adjourned.

Prayer.

The Rev. Mr. B. Kurtz preached at candlelight.

Tuesday Morning.

Prayer.

The Committee appointed to propose a plan for the establishment of a Theological Seminary, made their report, and after having been discussed and amended, was adopted, as follows, viz :

WHEREAS, The General Synod regard it as a solemn duty imposed on them by their Constitution, and due from them to their God and to the Church, to provide for the proper education of men of piety and talents, for the Gospel Ministry :—Therefore,

Resolved, 1. That the General Synod will forthwith commence, in the name of the Triune God, and in humble reliance on his aid, the establishment of a Theological Seminary, which shall be exclusively devoted to the glory of our Divine Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. And that in this Seminary shall be taught, in the German and English languages, the fundamental doctrines of the Sacred Scriptures, as contained in the Augsburg Confession.

2. That this Institution shall be under the sole government of a Board of Directors, which shall regularly meet semi-annually, and as often at intermediate times as they may think expedient. This Board are not, in any respect, under the controul of the General Synod; but each member is responsible, individually, to the Synod by which he is elected.

3. That this Board consist of Five Directors, viz : three Pastors and two Laymen from each Synod, which is connected with the General Synod, and contributes pecuniary aid to the support of the Seminary.

4. That the General Synod elect the first Board of Directors, agreeably to the preceding article, whose term of service shall be determined by their respective Synods; after which, the several Synods shall elect their Directors in such manner, and for such time, as may be deemed most expedient by themselves : *provided*, always, that one half of their quota of Directors vacate their seats at one and the same time.

5. That after the aggregate sum of \$10,000 has been collected, each Synod shall be entitled to an additional Director, for every five hundred dollars which it may subsequently contribute, until its number of Directors shall be *Nine*; after which it shall be entitled to an additional Director for every 1000 dollars, until its number of Directors amounts to fourteen.

6. That a Professor shall be elected by the General Synod, after which the Board of Directors shall forever have the

exclusive authority of electing additional Professors, and filling up all vacancies.

7. Any Professor may be impeached, at any time, for fundamental error in doctrine, immorality of deportment, inattention to the duties of his office, or incapacity to discharge them; and, if found guilty, may be dismissed from office, by two-thirds of the Directors present: *provided*, always, that a motion for impeachment be made at one semi-annual meeting, and lie over, for consideration, until the next; and that the Secretary of the Board of Directors, be required to give written notice to every Director absent from said meeting, within four weeks after the meeting, at which such motion was made.

8. That the Board of Directors shall frame a Constitution in consonance with the principles fixed by the General Synod; and may, from time to time, form such By-Laws as they may deem expedient, and as are in accordance with the Constitution.

9. Any alteration in the Constitution of the Seminary, or any election for a Professor, must be proposed at one semi-annual meeting of the Board, and cannot be acted on before the next semi-annual meeting. A fair copy of every such proposed measure, shall be forwarded to each Director, who may have been absent from said meeting, whose vote must be accepted, whether by proxy or by letter.

10. The Directors are responsible for their conduct to the respective Synods, by whom they were elected, and may be removed for such causes, and in such manner, as said Synods shall specify.

11. The Board of Directors shall establish a Treasury, into which all contributions and bequest for the Theological Seminary shall be paid, and said Board shall have the sole controul of the Treasury.

Resolved, That Agents be sent throughout the United States, by the Officers of the General Synod, to solicit contributions, for the support of the Seminary; that it be earnestly recommended to the Ministers of our several Synods to afford said agents every possible aid, and that the Board of Directors pay the necessary expenses of such agents.

THE FOLLOWING AGENTS WERE APPOINTED BY THE SYNOD:

Rev. Dr. *Lochman*, Dr. *Endress*, Dr. *Muhlenberg*, and Rev. Mr. *Demme*, for the Synod of East Pennsylvania.

Rev. Dr. *Schmucker*, Rev. *J. Herbst* and *B. Keller*, for West Pennsylvania.

Rev. Mr. *Stanch*, and Rev. *J. Sleck*, Ohio and Indiana.

Rev. Dr. *P. Mayer*, Rev. Messrs. *Gaisenheimer*, *F. C. Schaefer*, and *Lintner*, for the Synod of New York.

S. S. Schmucker, for Philadelphia and the Eastern States.

Rev. Messrs. *A. Reck*, *Meyerheffer* and *Krauth*, for Virginia.

Rev. Messrs. *B. Kurtz*, *H. Graber*, *Rothrauff* and *Little*, for Maryland.

Rev. *W. Jenkins*, for Tennessee.

Rev. Messrs. *J. Sherer*, and *J. Reck*, for North Carolina.

Rev. Messrs. *Bachman* and *Dreher*, for South Carolina.

Resolved, That Rev. Mr. *Heyer* be a delegate to meet the Synod of Ohio, and that he invite said Synod to renew their connexion with the General Synod.

Resolved, That an Agent, furnished with ample testimonials by the President and Secretary of the General Synod, be forthwith sent to Europe, to solicit contributions of money and books, for the benefit of the Seminary; and that our beloved and reverend brother *Benjamin Kurtz* be this agent. That it shall be the duty of the Officers of the General Synod to supply his Congregations with a suitable Minister until his return, and that all the necessary expenses of this mission be paid by the Board of Directors.

Resolved, That Rev. Messrs. *S. S. Schmucker*, *Herbst*, and *Keller*, prepare directions for the several agents.

The Rev. Messrs. *Rothrauff* and *J. Medtart*, have been appointed to take charge of the Congregations now under the care of the Rev. *B. Kurtz*, during his absence, which appointment has been accepted by them.

The following persons were appointed Directors of the Seminary.

Pennsylvania—Dr. *G. Schmucker*, Rev. Messrs. *J. Herbst*, and *B. Keller*—*P. Smyser*, of York, and *Jacob Young*, of Carlisle.

North Carolina—Rev. Messrs. *G. Shober*, *Storch*, and *J. Walter*—Col. *Berringer*, and *Wm. Keck*, Esq. of Guilford county.

Maryland—Dr. *Kurtz*, Rev. *B. Kurtz*, Rev. *C. P. Krauth*—Mr. *J. Harry*, and Mr. *C. Mantz*.

Adjourned, after prayer had been offered, to 3 o'clock.

3 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer.

Resolved, That the Seminary shall be located in such place as shall, at the close of three months, offer the greatest advantages.

Resolved, That one Professor be now chosen.

The Synod then proceeded to ballot for a Professor, when it appeared that the Rev. *S. S. Schmucker* was elected.

The Rev. *S. S. Schmucker* being waited on by a Committee, informing him of his election, declared his acceptance, which was reported to the Synod.

Resolved, That the Professor be furnished with a dwelling, and a salary of five hundred dollars, for the current year; and that the Board of Directors fix his salary thereafter.

Resolved, That the Directors meet on the first Wednesday in March, *A. D.* 1826, at Hagerstown, to decide at which place the *Seminary* shall be located, and to make all such arrangements as they may deem expedient.

Resolved, That five Ministers and two Lay-men shall at all times form a quorum to transact any business, connected with, or in reference to, the seminary.

Resolved, That the Professor elect, prepare a Constitution, and submit it to the board of directors, at their meeting in March.

Resolved, That the directors be requested, in due time, to apply for an act of Incorporation.

Resolved, That it be proposed to the different Synods in connexion with the General Synod, to strike out in the preamble to the Constitution of the General Synod, the words "no special regulations," and to insert in lieu thereof, "no entire specific directory for government and discipline."

Resolved, That Rev. Messrs. *Secretary, Schmucker* and *Herbst*, be a committee to prepare a Pastoral Letter, and insert in it such extracts from the Minutes of the several Synods as they may deem interesting to our people.

After prayer, the Synod adjourned.

Divine service was performed, at candlelight, by the Rev. *S. S. Schmucker*.

Wednesday Morning, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Rev. B. Kurtz, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the Memorial of Mr. W. P. Rowles was referred, reported as follows:—

1. This Synod regards, with great pleasure, the sentiments of attachment to our Church, contained in the Memorial of Mr. Rowles, and are pleased to find him so desirous to employ his talents and influence in its behalf: that they consider the project he has in view, important and laudable, and well worthy of serious attention.

2 That we will cheerfully encourage the sale of an able and accurate History of our Church. That it be hereby recommended to Mr. Rowles to keep his object in view, and to collect materials whilst he is continuing his Theological studies. That, when the work shall have been completed, this Synod will appoint a committee to examine and report on its merits.

The report was adopted unanimously.

Resolved, That the subscription books of the Agents, appointed by this Synod, to collect monies for the support of the Seminary, be headed as follows, viz :—

WE, the subscribers, promise to pay unto ~~X~~ in trust for the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, the sum or sums annexed to our respective names, in five equal annual instalments, to be paid on or before the first day of May in each year.

Resolved, That it be the duty of the Agents to proceed from house to house, before March next, and enter into a bound book, the name of each subscriber, with the sum subscribed.

Resolved, That Dr. Schmucker, Rev. G. Shober, B. Keller, S. Schmucker, and C. P. Krauth, be a committee to prepare a Hymn-Book, Liturgy, and a collection of Prayers, in the English language, for the use of our Church, adhering particularly to the New York Hymn-Book, and German Liturgy of Pennsylvania, as their guides ; and that they report hereon to the next General Synod.

Resolved, That Rev. G. Shober, D. F. Schaeffer, and S. S. Schmucker, be a committee to publish, forthwith, on the part of this Synod, the translation of Dr. Martin Luther's smaller catechism, offered to this Synod by a committee appointed at the last Synod for said purpose ; and that the publishing committee make a contract, for printing this translation, with such printer as shall offer the most favorable terms.

Resolved, That any omission of business, which was to have been acted upon, or any indispensable correction or alteration, to give force to the resolutions aforesaid, be submitted to the conscientious decision of the officers.

Resolved, That this Synod adjourn to the fourth Sunday in October, A. D. 1827, and meet at such place where the Seminary shall be located.

The Brethren then, on bended knees, united with their everend President in prayer ; and, after singing a Hymn, they bid each other an affectionate adieu.

Attest,

DAVID F. SCHÆFFER, A. M.

Secretary.

N. B. Here the agent must insert his name.

PASTORAL ADDRESS

OF THE

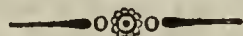
GENERAL SYNOD,

TO THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN THE

UNITED STATES.



The GENERAL SYNOD to the Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church : Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. In the kind providence of our merciful God, we have again had the pleasure of meeting in General Synod, and engaging in fraternal consultation about the high interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. Our gratification, at this meeting, has been enhanced by the presence of a delegation from the Synod of West Pennsylvania, and the reception of that numerous and important body into the connexion of the General Synod ; as well as by a variety of other circumstances, all tending to prove, that the prejudices, which had existed against the body, are rapidly subsiding ; and that a few years more will present to the Christian eye, the pleasing spectacle of the whole Lutheran Church, in the United States, joined together by the mild, yet salutary, bond of this Advisory Council. During the five years of the existence of the General Synod she has given full evidence of the excellence of her constitution, of the fraternal spirit which actuates her counsels, and of the happy results which the friends of Lutheranism may anticipate from her future operations. Against the danger of encroachment on the rights of the individual Synods, no other security was requisite, to the enlightened mind, beyond the structure of her Constitution, and the principles on which it was founded ; and to those who, though filled with prejudices, were, nevertheless, willing to be better informed of the measures which have emanated from the General Synod, seem to have given general satisfaction.

The General Synod are happy in being able to represent the situation of all the several Synods of our Church as truly prosperous.

THE SYNOD OF NEW YORK, and the adjoining states, continues to evince that enlightened zeal for the extension of Lutheranism, by which she has heretofore been distinguished. By well directed and energetic measures, the brethren of this synod are rapidly establishing Churches throughout that vast and growing state; and the General Synod regard, with particular pleasure, the rising fame of Hartwick Seminary, which, they are happy to learn, continues to afford equal evidence, of the distinguished abilities of its reverend principal, and of the enlightened zeal of the Synod, whose particular patronage it enjoys,

The Synod of East Pennsylvania now consists of about fifty Ministers, whose parochial reports afford abundant evidence of their activity, and of the extension of our Church within their borders. Much has been done by this Synod in the cause of domestic missions, and the General Synod would recommend their example to the imitation of the Synods generally. From the statements of some members of this body, who were present at their last meeting, we learn, that those few congregations which were opposed to the General Synod, and on whose account the Clergy deemed it prudent to relinquish, for a season, their connexion with this body, had, in a great measure, become convinced of their error; that the Ministers still retained their attachment to the General Synod, and that we may expect soon to see them resume their connexion with an institution, among the founders of which they held a distinguished rank.

THE SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA, held their first regular meeting at Chambersburgh, in September last; on which occasion a constitution was adopted, and a resolution unanimously passed to send delegates to the General Synod, and to enter into permanent connexion with said body. The number of Ministers now belonging to this Synod is about thirty, and from their known zeal and devotedness to the truth, it may be confidently expected that this will prove one of our most active and efficient Synods.

THE SYNOD OF MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA has increased in number, so as to be entitled, agreeably to the Constitution of the General Synod, to three Clerical and three Lay delegates in that body. This Synod adopted general principles, relative to a Theological Seminary, which they instructed their delegates to advocate before this body, and which paved the way to the important and extensive measures recorded in the preceding minutes. Occasional special conferences are held in this Synod, as well as in most others, and the General Synod cannot but regard with pleasure the zeal and activity manifested by the brethren of this Synod.

THE SYNOD OF OHIO continues to increase in Ministers and churches. Although the brethren of this Synod had elected delegates to the last General Synod, no representation was present at the present session. Whether or not delegates were elected and prevented from attending, this body has not been informed. In the known piety and devotedness of the Synod, the General Synod find an ample pledge that its members will not ultimately abandon an institution which is so necessary to the harmony and unity of our church, and which alone can enable the individual Synods successfully to provide for the future welfare of the churches committed to their charge.

SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA appears to be laboring with unremitting zeal. As the calls for missionary labour, addressed to this Synod, were so numerous, three of the located pastors spent a portion of the past year in extensive journey to visit distant brethren, and break unto them the bread of life. From the minutes of their last session, it appears that the opposition of certain congregations against the General Synod is rapidly subsiding, and that some of them have made application to be received into connexion with this body. In these events the General Synod sees another evidence added to the long catalogue of proofs, that though some of our members, who live remote from the sources of authentic information, may, for a while, be led astray by the misrepresentations of ignorant and designing men, the truth will at last be victorious, and the work of God eventually commend itself to the conscience of every honest man.

THE SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA was organized in January, 1824, and the Augsburg confession adopted as the standard of the doctrines to be believed and taught by its members. In the latter part of the same year, another meeting was held, at which time the number of ministers, connected with this Synod, amounted to ten. From the report of a committee appointed to inquire into the state of our congregations in that section of the country, it appears that there are twenty-four Lutheran Churches in South Carolina, two in Georgia, and some imperfectly organized, in Alabama. The necessity of missionary labour, within the bounds of this Synod, is sensibly felt; and from the zeal and devotedness hitherto evinced by these brethren, there is reason to expect that much will be done for the welfare of Zion. The members of this Synod were formerly attached to the Synod of North Carolina, and were induced by the increase of their churches, and the great distance from the usual places of meeting, to establish a new Synod.

In the Pastoral Address of the last General Synod, on the subject of the TENNESSEE CONFERENCE, the hope was expressed that time and reflection would convince its members that their opposition to the General Synod was founded on error. Since then we have had the pleasure of hearing from the lips of several of their oldest and most respected members, that they now regard the General Synod as a useful institution, and highly disapprove of the turbulent conduct of a certain member of that conference, who, agreeably to the rites of the Lutheran Church, has never been lawfully ordained. Indeed, we have heard, from the same source, that several of the members have pledged themselves to leave the Conference if they cannot succeed in having the individual alluded to expelled. One of its ministers has already returned to the North Carolina Synod; and, it is expected, that of the few who remain, those that are conscientiously labouring to promote the welfare of the Lutheran Church, will ere long, follow the example.

On the subject of the state of our Church in Europe, the General Synod have received an interesting letter from the eminent and learned *G. J. Plank*, D. D. Consistorialrath and Professor of Theology, in the University of Goettingen, which, whilst it evinces the utility of the committee of Foreign Correspondence, established by the last General Synod, affords an interesting and condensed view of the state of our Church in Germany. As the whole of this interesting letter will be laid before the public in the *Evangelical Lutheran Intelligencer*, shortly to be published under the direction of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia, we shall merely advert to a few items of which it treats. It cannot fail to be gratifying to the friends of the *General Synod*, to hear the opinion on this distinguished man gives in favour of this institution, in such emphatic terms.

“Permit me (says Dr. Plank,) to acknowledge the gratification with which I perused your account of the plan for the union of all the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in the United States into one General Synod, which has already, in part, been accomplished; and to express the pleasing anticipations which it has excited in my mind. If my expectations do not deceive me, the consequences of this union may prove of the utmost importance, not only to the Lutheran Church in the United States, but also to our Church at large, even in the European world.” And again speaking of the effects which future political revolutions of Europe will probable exert on the Church, this venerable man says—“Nevertheless, in view of these consequences, I yield myself to the pleasing expect-

lation, that the general union of your churches, which has been so happily commenced, will continue to prosper and form a united body," a rallying point for the Evangelical feelings and exertions of the church. "The prudence, the wisdom, and the mild determination, which have characterized the commencement and progress of the work, at least afford ample security for the nature of its effects; and, in an undertaking in which we have engaged for the sake of the Redeemer's kingdom, and with a view to the advancement of its interest, we may always calculate on the gracious aid of our Lord himself, to whom no obstacle is insurmountable." What adds peculiar weight to this testimony, and ought to insure it no small influence on the minds of those who have doubted the utility of our Gen. Synod, is that Dr. Planck has made the history and government of the Christian Church his peculiar study through life; that he is confessedly one of the first ecclesiastical historians of the age, and therefore ought to be well qualified to judge of the effects of such an institution.

Concerning the *Government* of our churches, Dr. Planck remarks—"In the Protestant provinces of Germany, our churches have generally retained the organization which was adopted at the time of the Reformation. And as this organization, in some instances, was influenced by local circumstances, and was not the result of a settled plan, some diversity of external structure was naturally introduced. Nevertheless, it is easy to perceive the uniformity of the principles from which, under different circumstances, this diversity was deduced." He records it as one of the peculiar traits, by which the present state of our church in Germany is distinguished, that there is not only a decided increase of true piety and activity in the cause of Missionary, and Bible, and Tract, and other charitable and benevolent Societies, but an increased attachment to the church of Christ as a visible body, and a higher estimate of the privilege of membership in the church. In those churches, which, by the recent political changes of Europe, were brought under the jurisdiction of the Catholic Government of Bavaria, an attempt has been made to do away the former Consistorial government, and to organize the church on principles similar to those of our church in this country, and of the Presbyterian church at large.

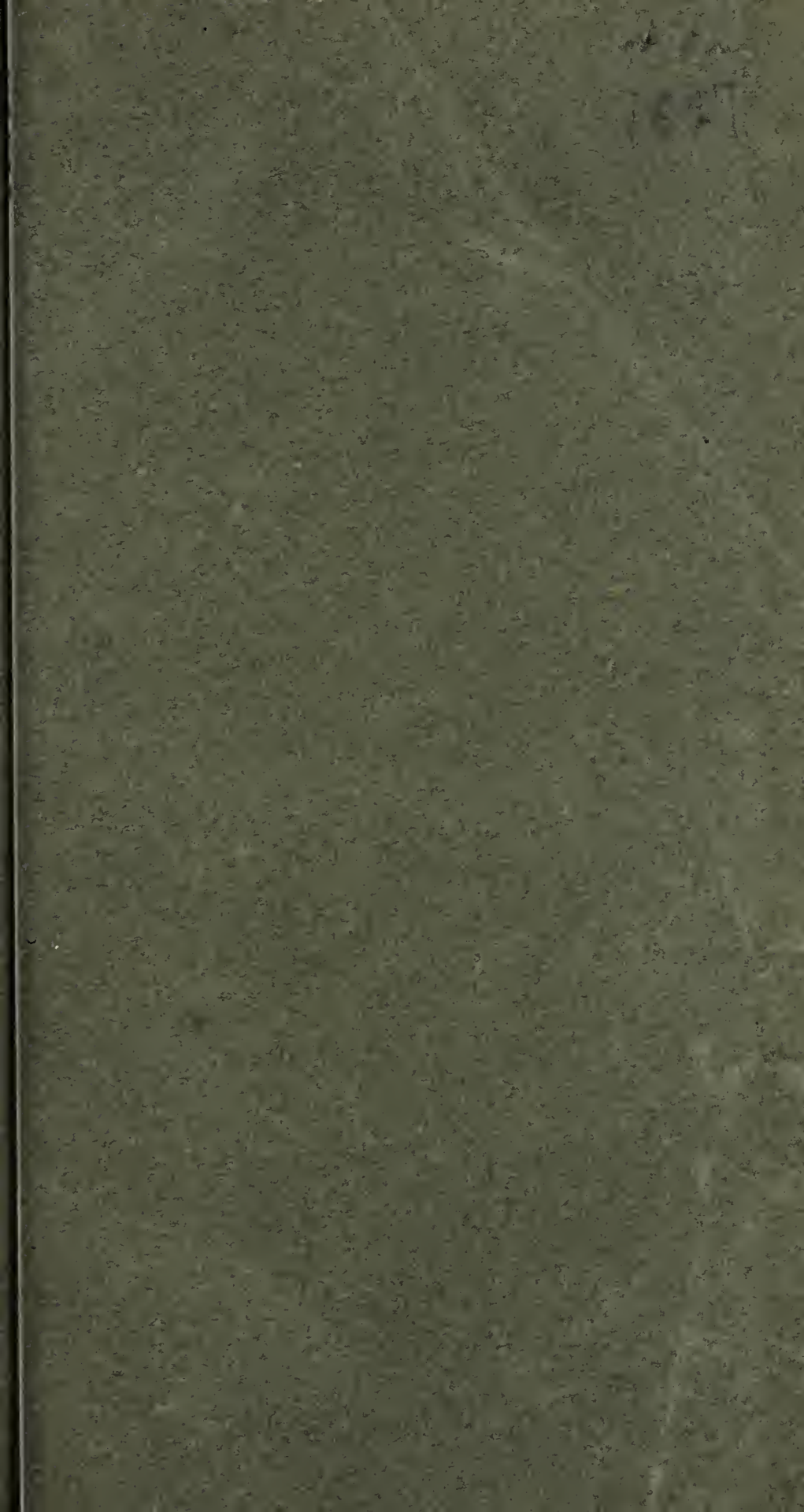
As the recent revolutions of Europe stripped the Roman hierarchy of two thirds of her possessions, which were secularized for the benefit of protestant princes, she is making renewed exertions to regain her lost ground, and this has produced an unhappy and reciprocal spirit of animosity and proselytism, both in that church and in our own. On the oth-

On the other hand, that sectarian spirit, which had subsisted between the members of the Reformed and Lutheran Churches, has in general, vanished, and a union between the two churches has been effected, throughout the Prussian monarchy, in the Hessian territories and in those of Nassau, in the Palatinate and in Baden. On the whole, it appears that our church in Germany is improving in zeal for the Redeemer; that infidelity is avowed less presumptuously, and opposed more triumphantly, than has of late years been the case.

To the Great Head of the Church; to the eternal Son of God, we would ascribe honour, praise, and gratitude, that he has not left nor forsaken his church; that he is the same God unto us as he was to our fathers, and that our hearts are still gladdened by the light of his countenance, and our souls elated by the joys of his salvation.

In conclusion, the Gen. Syn. would, in few words, call the attention of the churches to the important measures which have been adopted relative to a Theological Seminary.—Brethren! we have sketched out for you the plan of such an institution; we have chosen, as its basis, the same principles which have sustained our church during three hundred years; the same holy principles which have sustained Christianity, since the days of the Apostles. Knowing that “no other foundation can no man lay, than that which is laid,” we have founded this institution on the rock Christ; and now we call on you to build it up into an edifice, which shall do honour to the liberality of your hearts, to make it commensurate with the wants of our extended church, and to make it an important and efficient engine in the advancement of the mediatorial reign of your Redeemer. Remember, that all your possessions are but talents lent you, and that of the use which you make of them, you must render an account. Remember, that the interests of Christ’s kingdom are your interests; that the advancement of them is your highest duty; that, if you have done but little heretofore, you have not done what you were bound to do. An opportunity is now given you to make amends for past neglect, and to discharge your present duty. Cast your eyes around you, upon the waste places of our Zion. See her shrouded in mourning, and bewailing her destitute condition. Hear the voice of her sons and daughters, at every session of our different Synods, imploring spiritual aid, calling for some messenger of the gospel, to break unto them the bread of life, and teach them the way to Heaven. Think, too, that your opportunity of giving a portion of your substance to the Lord, may soon be closed by death; and then ask your own conscience—shall I sit still and do nothing? Shall I refuse

a small pittance to that God who gave me every thing I possess? No, brethren! Remember, the Lord loveth a cheerful giver: give, therefore, liberally, according as the Lord may have prospered you, and "remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said—it is more blessed to give than to receive."





Minutes

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES.

Convened at Gettysburg, Pa.

OCTOBER, 1827.

GETTYSBURG:

PRINTED AT THE PRESS OF THE THEOL. SEMINARY.

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MINUTES

OF

THE FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Gettysburg, Sunday, Oct. 26, 1827.

THIS being the day appointed for the meeting of the General Synod, the clerical and lay delegates elected by the different Synods, together with the other clergy present, assembled at the house of the resident pastor, and at 10 o'clock A. M. proceeded to the Lutheran Church. The Rev. Dr. Kurtz delivered the pastoral discourse,—after which, the whole Synod united with the church, and other brethren present, in celebrating the holy supper of our divine and risen Saviour. The preparatory discourse had been delivered on the previous day by the Rev. Mr. Heim. In the afternoon, divine service was conducted in the German language, by the Rev. Mr. Helfenstein, and at night, by the Secretary in the English language. Rev. Messrs. Reck and Klein preached in the other churches of the town, which had been kindly tendered for the purpose.

Monday, 9 o'clock.

The President, the Rev. Mr. SHOBER, being absent, the Secretary, agreeably to the constitution, organized the Synod by prayer.

The Minutes of the different Synods and other credentials were then presented, from which it appeared that the following brethren were elected as delegates to the General Synod.

FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

Rev. MARTIN WALTER, pastor of the churches in Fincastle and its vicinity, Bottetourt county.

Rev. Mr. J. RECK, pastor of the churches in Salisbury and its vicinity.

Mr. RAMSOUER, from the congregations of Lincoln county.

JESSE WALTON, esq. Rowan county.

FROM MARYLAND & VIRGINIA.

Rev. Dr. KURTZ, pastor of the German Lutheran church in Baltimore.

Rev. Mr. D. F. SCHÆFFER, pastor of the church in Fredericktown.

Rev. Mr. C. P. KRAUTH, pastor of the 2d English Lutheran church in Philadelphia.

Mr. J. HARRY, Hagerstown.

Mr. A. LICHTERWALTER, Taneytown.

FROM WEST PENNSYLVANIA.

Rev. Mr. J. HERBST, pastor of the churches in Gettysburg and its vicinity.

Rev. Mr. H. STECHER, pastor of the churches, York co.

Rev. Mr. W. HEIM, pastor of the churches in Mifflin and its vicinity.

Mr. C. A. MORRIS, York.

GEO. ZIEGLER, esq. Gettysburg.

GEO. SMYSER, esq. Gettysburg.

The Synod then proceeded to the election of officers, and on counting the ballots, it appeared that

Rev. Mr. KURTZ, D. D. was elected *President*.

D. F. SHAEFFER, A. M. *Secretary*.

C. A. BARNITZ, esq. *Treasurer*.

The following gentlemen were present, and admitted as advising members—

The Rev. Dr. Schmucker, Rev. Mr. Grob, Rev. Prof. Schmucker; Rev. Messrs. Klein, Eyster, Hoffman, and Albert.

The Rev. Mr. Helfenstein, of Philadelphia, as delegate from the Bible Society in that city—

And Rev. Mr. van der Sloot, as delegate from the General Synod of the German Reformed Church.

The Minutes of the several Synods being laid on the table, it was *resolved*: That they be distributed among the following committees for report;

1. Rev. Reck and Ramsouer,
2. " Herbst and Morris,
3. " Kranth and Nusz.

The Rev. J. Helfenstein having informed the Synod, of the nature of his mission to this Synod, it was *resolved*:

That Rev. Messrs. Schæffer and Heim, and Messrs. Walter, Harry and Smyser, report on this subject during the afternoon session.

The Synod then resolved itself into a committee of the whole; after which,

A letter from the Rev. Dr. Planck, of Göttingen, was read. The Synod was gratified by the deep interest evinced by this letter, in the affairs of our church in the United States, and received the good wishes of its distinguished author with grateful feelings. The corresponding committee was directed to answer this communication.

An interesting letter from Rev. G. Shober, was then read. Ordered that the Secretary answer it, and that he be requested to insert it in the *Intelligencer*. *Resolved*, That an extract be inserted in the Minutes of the Synod.

Mr. Morris was appointed to furnish the secretary with such extract, and a translation of it.

Resolved, That the minutes of each session be read at the commencement of the subsequent session.

A letter from Rev. Dr. Kniewel, of Danzig, containing a description of the state of our church in Prussia, was read.

Synod adjourned.

Monday, 5 o'clock P. M.

Synod was constituted by prayer.

The consideration of Dr. Kniewel's letter having been resumed, it was *resolved*:

That an extract from it be inserted into the Minutes.

Resolved, That Rev. J. Herbst, furnish the secretary with such extract, and translation in the English language.

A letter from the Tract Society at Philadelphia, was read, and referred to Rev. C. P. Krauth, and J. Herbst.

The Committee which was appointed to the subject of the Rev. Mr. Helfenstein's mission, presented the following report, which was read and adopted, viz.

Whereas the Bible Society of Philadelphia have resolved to supply every family in the state of Pennsylvania, destitute of a Bible with a copy of it, and have communicated such a resolution to this Synod through their agent, Rev. S. Helfenstein, requesting their co-operation in effecting this object: Therefore, *Resolved*: that this Synod highly approve of the laudable undertaking of said Society, and being desirous to give every facility to such efforts—earnestly recommend to all the ministers and members of the churches within their jurisdiction, to give every assistance within their power to carry into effect the operations of said society, and of every other similar institution now established, or, that may be established within the jurisdiction of their Synod.

The decisions of the different Synods having been called for, on the subject of the alteration in the Preamble of the Constitution of the General Synod which was recommended by the last General Synod, it was found that the Synods had unanimously adopted the alteration, and the President therefore pronounced the Constitution altered so as to read as follows:

“Jesus Christ, the Supreme Head of his Church, having prescribed no entire specific directory for government and discipline, and every sectional church being left at full liberty, &c.

The report of the Committee to whom were referred the Minutes of West Penn. Synod, was read and adopted.

Report of the Committee on the Minutes of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia was read and adopted.

Report of the Committee on the Minutes of the Synod of North-Carolina was read and adopted.

Resolved, that a Pastoral letter be addressed by this Synod to our churches, and that the Reports adopted, be referred to the Committee, who shall prepare said Pastoral letter.

The Committee consists of Rev. D. F. Schæffer, Rev. J. Herbst and Professor Schmucker.

The Committee to whom was referred the letter from the American Tract Society, made the following report which was read and adopted, viz.

Resolved: That the General Synod of the Ev. Lutheran Church in the United States regard with deep interest the exertions of the American Tract Society, and recommend the design of said society to the churches under their care; to give it their aid by the formation of auxiliary societies, and such other means as have been recommended by the parent institution.

The Committee appointed to prepare for publication a new Hymn-book in the English language, made the following report:

The Committee appointed to prepare for publication a new and comprehensive selection of Hymns, for the use of our churches, respectfully report, that they have devoted their most particular and prayerful attention to the important business assigned to them. They have procured all the most excellent and valuable hymn-books used by sister churches, and have also examined very many hymns found dispersed through the works of individual authors. They feel assured that the selection made will contain the major part of the best hymns extant in the English language. They have also, after mature consideration, constructed a new arrangement, which they deem decidedly more practical than any other which they have seen, and calculated to be more useful both to ministers and laymen. A general view of this arrangement they beg leave to submit to the consideration of the General Synod. The basis of the selection is the New-York Hymn-book, according to the instructions of this body; and the hymns selected from it, together with those intended to be added, will amount from eight to nine hundred.

The committee recommend that the printing of the work be commenced at the press of the Theol. Seminary without delay, and that a committee be appointed to make the necessary arrangements for its publication, and to attend to the accuracy of the impression.

Signed—

S. S. SCHMUCKER.

C. P. KRAUTH.

G. SHOBER

J. G. SCHMUCKER.

B. KELLER.

Divine service was conducted at candle-light in the German language, by the Rev. Mr. Walter.

Adjourned.

Tuesday 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Report of the committee on the Hymn-book, was again read, the plan for the arrangement of the hymns attentively considered, and the whole unanimously adopted.

Professor Schmucker and the Rev. Mr. Herbst were appointed to contract with the printer, to superintend the publication of the Hymn-book and to secure to this Synod the copy-right of the same.

Rev. Mr. Hinsch appeared and presented to this body the Minutes of the German Reformed Synod, and received a seat as an advisory member, whereupon it was

Resolved, that an equal number of the Minutes of this Synod be sent to the Synod of the German Reformed church.

Resolved: That the Hymn-book be printed in octodecimo form.

Resolved: That the Rev. Mr. Herbst be appointed General Agent for the sale of said Hymn-book, and that a reasonable compensation be allowed him from the proceeds of the sale of the book for his services.

Resolved: That 5000 copies be printed.

Resolved: That the printer of the English Catechism be requested to dispose of them on such terms that they can be re-tailed at 12½ cents per copy.

Resolved: That a committee be appointed to ascertain whether the copy-right for the Catechism, printed by Messrs. Gruber & May, be valid.

2. That if it be valid, whether it can be regained to this body. The committee consists of Rev. Messrs. Schæffer & Herbst, and Mr. Harry.

Resolved: 1. That the committee on the Hymn-book and Liturgy, have leave to report on the Liturgy at the next meeting of this Synod.

2. That they report a Constitution for the government of district Synods, to be recommended to the several Synods connected with this body. ✓

Resolved: That a committee be appointed, to address a letter of thanks to our benefactors in Europe for the distinguished liberality, which they have evinced in behalf of our Theological Seminary, and the affection which they have displayed towards the Lutheran Church in the United States.

On this committee were appointed Rev. Dr. Schmucker, and the Rev. Messrs. Herbst and Keller. It was resolved, that this letter be also attested by the Officers of the General Synod.

Resolved: That the Rev. Dr. Schæffer, of Philadelphia, be requested to continue his attention to the compilation of the important and interesting events in the early history of our church in the United States, in order that they may be rescued from oblivion. Dr. Kurtz, and D. F. Schæffer, to be a committee, to present to him this request.

Adjourned to 2 o'clock.

2 o'clock, P. M.

The delegates from the Synod of West Pennsylvania informed the General Synod, that they had adopted the Formula of Government and Discipline, recommended by this body to the different Synods, and that they wished to add the following clauses, which they now submitted to this body for its sanction. ✓

These additions were unanimously approved of by the General Synod—and were as follows:

TO CHAPTER III. 2.

No minister shall knowingly grant to a member of another congregation any privileges of the church, which would be denied to said member by his own pastor.

It is recommended, that when a member of one of our churches moves into the bounds of another, and wishes to be admitted to the privileges of the church, he shall bring with him a certificate of good standing from his former pastor.

Each minister shall consider it his duty to keep a list of all the persons baptized, confirmed, admitted to sacramental communion, and buried, in each of his congregations; and shall annually report the amount of these items to the Synod

It is the sacred duty of every minister so to conduct himself, that his life shall present to his congregations an example of true christian propriety of deportment: And should any minister of our church be guilty of an open vice (which may God in mercy prevent!), it shall be the duty of the church-council earnestly to exhort him several times to reformation, and if this should prove ineffectual, or if the case be such as to bring disgrace upon the church, to report him to the Synod.

If any member of the church-council should conduct himself in a manner unworthy of his office, he may be accused before the council, and if found guilty, his case shall be referred to the whole church for decision.

TO CHAPTER IV. 4.

Any vacant congregation also may send a delegate to lay its concerns before the Synod: And the church-councils of each clerical district, may annually send to the Synod as many lay delegates as there are ministers present at the Synod from said district.

TO CHAPTER V. 2.

It is recommended to the church-council to keep a complete list of all the communing members of the church.

TO CHAPTER V. 5.

It is recommended as accordant with the principles of the New Testament, that the members of the church ought not to prosecute each other before a civil tribunal, until they have first made an attempt to settle their point of difference through the mediation of their christian brethren.

The subject of publishing a new Hymn-book in the German language, adapted to the joint use of Lutheran and Reformed Churches, was now taken into consideration. After some discussion, it was

Resolved: That as the joint Hymn-book for the Lutheran & Reformed Churches, now in use, is introduced in a large number of our congregations, as it is possessed of considerable merit, and as the introduction of a new one would be attended with much expense to our congregations, and confusion in worship; therefore the General Synod deem it inexpedient to publish or recommend the introduction of a new one in the churches under their care.

The first stated report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, on the state of said institution, was read and directed to be printed with the minutes of the General Synod.

Resolved: That the profits of the sale of hymn-books, be paid into the treasury of the General Synod, and that hereafter, the reasonable expenses of the delegates in attending the meetings of the General Synod, be paid from this fund.

It having been stated by the delegates from North Carolina, that the Synod of South Carolina had expressed a desire to be received into connexion with the General Synod, but supposed that their intention to establish a Theological Seminary within the bounds of their Synod, would prove an obstacle to their reception, it was

Resolved: That the Secretary inform the Synod of South Carolina, that their intention to establish a Seminary, within their own state, will not be an impediment to their being received into connexion with the General Synod, provided it be effected in conformity to Article III, Section 6, of the Constitution of the General Synod.

Resolved: That Mr. C. Morris assist the publishing committee, in making a contract with the printer for printing the hymn-book.

An interesting letter was read from the Rev. Dr. Hazelius, Principal of Hartwick Seminary, New York. It was

Resolved: That Professor Schmucker answer said letter, and that it be referred to the committee on the Pastoral Address.

Whereas it has pleased the Almighty Disposer of events, since the last meeting of this body, to remove from our midst, our beloved brethren, the Rev. Drs. Lochman and Endress, who were among the Fathers of our General Synod, and able ministers of the Lord Jesus, Therefore, to testify our feelings upon this occasion,

Resolved: That we hereby express our particular regard for those esteemed servants of the Lord, and our deep affliction at the loss sustained by the church in their death.

Resolved: That all papers belonging to the General Synod, be deposited in the Archives at Gettysburg.

Resolved: That 500 copies of the minutes be printed in the English, and as many in the German language.

Rev. N. Sharrets was appointed as delegate to the Synod of Ohio, and the Rev. B. Kurtz, and Rev. J. Schmidt, as delegates to the German Reformed General Synod.

Time and place of next meeting were then determined, and Hagerstown, and the Fourth Sunday in October, 1829, were fixed on.

In the evening divine service was conducted in the English language by the Rev. Mr. Krauth.

The business before the Synod having now been transacted, the brethren united in a fervent address to the throne of grace, to render thanks for the evidences of the divine favour and influence which they had witnessed during the session, and to implore upon the church the continued blessing of Him, who graciously promised to be with her always, even to the end of the world.

I certify the above to be a true extract,

DAVID F. SCHÆFFER,

Secretary.

FIRST

Seminary

STATED REPORT

OF

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

TO THE

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES,
ON THE STATE OF THEIR SEMINARY.

IN presenting to the Supreme Judicatory of the Lutheran Church in America, an account of the progress of the institution so recently founded, under God, by their faith and zeal; the Board of Directors feel themselves imperiously called on to render their acknowledgements to the Great Head of the Church, in whose name the enterprise was undertaken, and who has so graciously smiled upon the feeble efforts of his servants. Agreeably to the appointment of the General Synod, the Board met at Hagerstown on the first Wednesday in March 1826, to attend to the important and difficult duties assigned to them. Extensive exertions had been made by the citizens of several towns, to obtain the location of the Seminary; and much interest was excited by the subject. Aware of the fact, that the decision of this question would exert an important and permanent influence on the welfare of this institution, and feeling the difficulties which conflicting opinions and wishes cast into their way; the Board, at different stages of their deliberations, addressed their fervent entreaties to the great Head of the Church for the guidance of his Spirit, until a degree of solemnity was thrown around the question, which alike convinced them that the hand of God would guide the decision, and prepared them to acquiesce in the result. Under these circumstances Gettysburg was chosen, not only as having made the highest pecuniary offer, but more particularly as being most central to the great body to the Lutheran Church; and the Board find pleasure in stating, that after an experience of nearly two years, the propriety of their decision becomes daily more evident. At the same meeting, the Professor elect submitted the Constitution which he had been appointed to prepare, and which, after mature deliberation, was with some additions, unanimously adopted.

On the 5th of September ensuing, the Board convened at Gettysburg, and solemnly inaugurated their first Professor; after which the operations of the institution immediately commenced. The number of students who at first applied for admission, was eleven; the whole number of individuals who have been connected with the institution, at present amounts to twenty three, and letters have been received from six others who intend to enter.

The course of studies prescribed by the Constitution of the Seminary, has been faithfully pursued. It is, however, a very difficult matter to obtain German text-books; and it was not until after much exertion and search in different parts of our country, that half a dozen copies of any good author on the subject of Practical Divinity could be found. The arrival of the very extensive and valuable collection of works obtained by the General Synod's agent in Germany, will entirely remove this difficulty, and will not only afford an opportunity, but will present many inducements to students to pursue their German studies.

With regard to the spiritual prosperity of the Seminary, the Directors have the most satisfactory evidence that ardent piety and enlightened zeal for the Redeemer's kingdom, are habitually and successfully inculcated. They cherish the firm conviction that this school of the prophets will, under God, prove an eminent blessing to the church; that it will annually send forth sound and able divines, and faithful, zealous pastors, "who shall be able rightly to divide the word of truth, and give to each hearer his portion of instruction and edification in due season." In connexion with this item of their report, the Directors have the pleasure to state that there is both a Missionary and a Tract Society established in the institution, and that the great object of evangelizing the world, finds zealous advocates in all its members. Nor can they pass over in silence the pleasing fact, that as a mark alike of attachment to the cause of tracts and of respect for the Professor, the students by their contributions constituted him a life member.

In determining the course of instruction in the Seminary, the Board thought it best at once to assume an elevated ground, and presuppose in the applicants for admission as many preparatory attainments, as are required in any other similar institution in our country. To the adoption of this course they were led by the conviction that it is not only best calculated to promote the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, but is also imperiously called for by the exigencies of our rapidly extending church. Yet in the present imperfect state of education in the Middle and Southern sections of our country, there will always be some amongst the applicants for admission, whose individual means will not bear them through a College course, or whose advanced age renders it inconsistent with their duty, to spend so many years in the pursuit of secular learning. The Board therefore believed it highly conducive to the prosperity of the Seminary, to have in its vicinity a well-conducted classical school, in which persons of the above descriptions, could attend to the most useful and necessary preparatory studies, without which they could not fully comprehend the instructions of the Seminary, and in which others could be prepared for entrance into the different Colleges of our country. But the Board are well aware of the fact, that as Directors of the Theological Seminary, they have no authority to establish such a school. They therefore, at the meeting last spring, associated themselves together as individuals, and appointed a committee to ascertain whether the proceeds of such a school would defray the expenses attendant on it, and if so, to put it into operation. Since that time this school has been organized. Mr. Jacobs has been selected as teacher, a

considerable number of pupils have been received into his school, and among the number, six young gentlemen, destined for the ministry of our church.—The Directors would earnestly recommend this school particularly to those members of our church who wish to give their sons a liberal education, as an institution well calculated to prepare young gentlemen for entrance into any College, and to give others the most important branches of a college education. For the reception of this school, the trustees of Gettysburg Academy very kindly granted a room in their edifice, and the Board feel it no less a duty than a pleasure, thus publicly to acknowledge their obligation to said trustees, and to the citizens of Gettysburg in general, for the promptness and cordiality with which they have uniformly co-operated with the Board in promoting the prosperity of the Seminary.

In compliance with the resolution of the last General Synod, the Board made application to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and obtained an Act of Incorporation, a copy of which is herewith transmitted.

The funds of the institution are as yet in comparative infancy. Subscriptions to some considerable amount have been obtained, but several years must yet elapse before all the instalments are due, and the sum total can be collected. On this subject the Board deem it their duty to record the distinguished munificence of our Rev. father Shober, whose zeal in the cause of the Redeemer is well known, and whose praise is in all the churches. He has given to this Board a lawful title to 2434 acres of land on the banks of the Yadkin river, in the state of North Carolina, for the benefit of this institution. Part of this land is improved, and there is every reason to believe that in a few years it will be a productive fund. To the Rev. Messrs. Herbst, Keller, and Ruthrauff, sen. also, the Board feel themselves under peculiar obligations, for the zeal which they have evinced, and the many sacrifices which they have made, in the service of the Seminary. The Board have the most satisfactory reason to believe that the institution committed to their charge, is gradually engaging the confidence of the christian public in general, and of our church in particular. They are assured that the prejudices which were entertained against it by some unacquainted with its nature and design, have in a goodly measure subsided, and that many who at first regarded it with a suspicious eye, now belong to its advocates, and are heard offering to the mercy-seat of God their prayers for its prosperity. In the production of this happy change, an important influence must be assigned to the Ev. Lutheran Intelligencer, a publication in which the interests of this institution and of the church in general are ably advocated, and the editor of which, our Rev. brother Shæffer, merits the warmest praise for his indefatigable zeal in behalf of every thing that regards the interests of the Lutheran church. Although it seems to be a digression from the subject of this report, the Board cannot but express the wish that the General Synod would adopt some efficient measures to extend the circulation of this publication. Upon the most felicitous result of the mission of our beloved brother Kurtz to Europe, the Board deem it needless to enter into details, as the circumstances of the case are generally known to the members of this body, and as the Rev. Mr. Kurtz will himself make report to them. Suffice it to say, that

he has been received with every mark of friendship and cordiality by our brethren in the different sections of Europe, and particularly in Germany; and that the distinguished liberality of our German brethren calls for the warmest and most lasting gratitude from our American churches, and imposes on the General Synod renewed obligations to cherish feelings of the most ardent fraternal affection and intercourse.

S. S. S.

PASTORAL ADDRESS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD.

THE General Synod to the different churches in their connexion, wish grace, mercy and peace, through God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ !

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN IN CHRIST !

It is with feelings of peculiar interest and pleasure, that we address you on this occasion. When the general fraternal association of our different Synods was first projected, it was a kind of holy experiment, prompted by brotherly love and zeal for the Redeemer's cause. Whilst its friends anticipated the happiest results to Zion, its enemies regarded it with a jealous eye, and predicted perils to church and state. But, thanks be to God ! these dread forebodings have proved unfounded ; whilst the brightest anticipations of its friends have been fully realized, and those happy results which a few years ago were the subject of mere expectation, have now assumed the certainty of historical fact. Would any now inquire what good can the General Synod do ? We reply, look and see what good she has already done. Behold a number of our ministers and laymen, from the remote sections of our country, assembled as one family, to consult together concerning the interests of the whole church. Behold those who had never seen each other before, and knew not how far they could trust each other, and how far they harmonized in views and could co-operate in action, embracing each other in the spirit of brotherly love, uniting their prayers and deliberations for Zion's welfare ;—and then say, has the General Synod done no good ? Behold her extend-

ing the bonds of christian affection and entwining them around our Lutheran brethren in Germany, in Sweden, in Denmark, in Norway, in Prussia, in England, and labouring to enkindle the spirit of brotherly love and holy zeal among all who bear the Lutheran name on earth ;—and say is not the spirit of the General Synod like that of the divine Master whom she professes to serve ? Behold her concentrating the resources of the church to effect purposes to which no individual Synod would have been competent. Contemplate the Theological Seminary which she has reared, which is prospering beyond the expectations of its most sanguine friends, and on which God has so visibly bestowed his blessings ;—and say, has the General Synod done no good ? nay, if she were now to close her existence ; is not the good she has already done, an ample compensation for all the exertions which have been made in her behalf ? But the fulness of the representation at this Synod affords a sufficient pledge of the increasing popularity and stability of this body ; every member of the whole delegation being present, save a single layman. In addition to this, another very respectable and zealous Synod (that of South Carolina) signified at this meeting her wish to be received into connection with the General Synod ; and may therefore be expected to send delegates to the next session of this body. For all these tokens of his favour, we would call upon our churches to praise the great King of Zion : and if there be any who remain unfriendly to the General Synod, to them we say: if the work be of God, it will stand, if it be of man, we join you in the prayer that the Lord may speedily bring it to nought.

When we look into the inspired records of Christianity, we see that love to each other was one of the prominent characteristics by which the primitive christians were distinguished. Nor was this affection confined to those who resided in their immediate vicinity ; it was uninfluenced by diversity of residence, or language, or nation, and embraced all every where who loved the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth. Such a spirit the General Synod rejoice to testify

is rapidly increasing in the churches in their connexion. There is a degree of unanimity of spirit, harmony of counsel and concentration of effort among our different Synods in the promotion of the cause of our common Master, hitherto unknown amongst us ; and the unprecedented success which the Lord has granted to all the enterprizes engaged in for his glory, seems to tell us that our own want of zeal has been the cause why in former days we accomplished so little. The cause of the Bible, of Tracts and Missions, finds advocates in all our ministers, and efficient aid in many of our churches. An increased degree of spirituality pervades our worshipping assemblies in general, and the labours of many of our ministers have been attended by a peculiar blessing. The

SYNOD OF NEW YORK

continues to advance in her regular course of zeal and enterprize in the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom. Anxious to draw the cords of fraternal love still closer, and to labour more effectually in the common cause, the brethren in the western section of the state, without receding from their Synodical relation to their eastern brethren, formed themselves into a conference, and met in the interim of the synodical Session for the purpose of mutual edification and to promote the interests of their churches. This *Western Conference* has also commenced the publication of an excellent periodical magazine, in which the interests of evangelical piety and sound doctrine are ably advocated and perspicuously proposed. The General Synod were gratified by the receipt of an interesting letter from a distinguished member of this Synod the Rev. Dr. HAZELIUS, and regret that the limits of this address will only permit them to lay before their churches the following extracts :

DEAR AND BELOVED BRETHREN,

Notwithstanding that Providence has cast my lot at a great distance from you, I have not been an unconcerned spectator of your pious labours, and though I have not been able, to prove to you my approbation of the course you are pursuing, yet I have not ceased, to pray for you to the

great head of the church, that he may bless you, and prosper whatever you undertake for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, in a truly Apostolic Spirit.

Be assured, Dear and beloved Brethren ! that I wish you to your meeting the blessings of our heavenly Father, the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the sanctifying influence of his holy Spirit ; that you may be directed in your pious labours by the Spirit of the gospel, and in all things act as becomes the disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus.

Our Seminary has been established since the year 1815 ; during which time 11 young men have received their Theological education here, 10 of whom are now actively engaged as laborers in the vineyard of our Lord ; but one is prevented by disease from participating in the labours of his Brethren.

The Seminary has therefore, *in the midst of many difficulties, which circumstances allow me not to particularize*, been enabled, by the gracious assistance of God, which we have very evidently experienced, to do something for the enlargement of our church in this state, and hundreds yea thousands of our brethren enjoy now the ordinance of a preached gospel, and the pious labours of christian ministers, who, without the assistance of the Seminary would still be deprived of all these blessings. In the mean time, the field of activity is still very large, and the vacant places are very numerous ; in most of the latter, the number of our people is too small, to provide alone for the support of christian ministers, and we therefore stand much in need of the aid of all our churches in this state for missionary exertions, to enable us, to establish congregations in the vacant places. At the last meeting of the Trustees of the Seminary the REV. GEORGE MILLER has received a call as assistant Professor of the Seminary, and he has since the commencement of the present term been actively engaged as my fellow labourer, and I promise myself much good for the common cause from the knowledge I have, of my beloved brother's piety and learning. He not only assists me in the Academical branches of the Seminary, but likewise in the instruction of the students of Divinity. I have to communicate to you a singular circumstance. Immediately after the establishment of our Theological Seminary I selected Storrs and Platt as a compend for my lectures ; I translated the work into English, without knowing that my dear brother the Rev. Mr. Schmucker was engaged in a similar task, and I had used my translation in manuscript with one class of Students before I received the notification, that such a work was to be printed. Since that time I have understood, that Professor Schmucker's translation is generally used both in Andover and the Episcopal Seminary at New York. This I consider a great triumph of the principles of our church, and as a forerunner of a more intimate christian union between these several churches. On this occasion I likewise take the liberty of informing you, that I am at present engaged in composing a tabulary church history from those tables I have hitherto used in my

lectures, and should wish to be able to lay them before you, as far as they are finished but this is impossible; however you may judge of the work if I tell you that in general I follow VATER's tables with some considerable additions. If you approve of the work, I will thank you to let me know it, as your approbation would greatly encourage me to go on.

Dear Brethren, much would I have to tell you, if I were permitted to be personally in your midst; sometimes I indulge a hope that I may see you face to face, if your meeting should happen to fall in the time of my vacation; but whether Providence will grant me this festive enjoyment or not, be assured that both myself and Mr. Miller my fellow labourer, are with you in Spirit, and we recommend ourselves and the Seminary entrusted to our care to your prayers; we shall be pleased to hear from you in return.

A communication of similar import was also received from the assistant Professor of the Seminary, the Rev. Mr. Miller. The General Synod rejoice most sincerely in the prosperity of the institution committed to the charge of these excellent servants of the Lord, and pray that the blessing of heaven may descend upon it copious as the dews of Hermon. A tabular view of ecclesiastical history in the English language, referred to in the above extract, is a desideratum which that learned and distinguished Divine is well qualified to supply, and with which the General Synod hope he will soon favour the church.

THE SYNOD OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA

has been called to mourn the death of her oldest and most respected members, the Rev. Doctors LOCHMAN & ENDRESS, men who were among the brightest ornaments of the Lutheran church, and whose departure is lamented no less by the Synods in general than by that to which they more immediately belonged. Another brother also of this Synod, the Rev. Mr. STREIN, has been translated from the field of labour to the land of eternal rest. The Synod continues to be in a prosperous condition, and some churches in its bounds have been visited with peculiar seasons of refreshment. A goodly number of brethren in this Synod, are ardently attached to the General Synod, and although, as a body, they have not yet seen fit to return to that union, in the establishment of

which they sustained a principal part and which will remain to afterages a monument of their zeal for the cause of God, yet do the General Synod with undiminished affection regard them as brethren, and fondly look forward to the time, when they will co-operate with them in form as they now do in spirit, in the promotion of the kingdom of our common Lord and Master.

THE SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA

appears to be moving forward with unwavering step in her course of zeal and activity to promote the eternal welfare of her churches. Particular attention was bestowed at the last session of this Synod, to the subject of German Sunday schools, and measures adopted for the necessary premium books in the German language. The General Synod are highly gratified by the zeal evinced in behalf of the German schools and would earnestly recommend their establishment wherever circumstances render it practical. This Synod has long felt the necessity of a system of church discipline, of a more definite character than that which had been in use; and therefore, after the most deliberate examination of the Formula of Government and Discipline recommended by the General Synod and already introduced in Maryland and in Virginia, unanimously adopted it with several additions, which were submitted to this body, and sanctioned at the present session. On the subject of the

SYNOD OF MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

the General Synod would express their sentiments in the language of the committee who reported on their minutes.

This Synod at their session in 1825, at Hagerstown—convinced of the necessity of a religious periodical, devoted to the interests of the Lutheran church—appointed an editing committee consisting of the Rev. Messrs. KRAUTH AND SCHAEFFER, to commence and superintend the publication of such a work. From the commencement of this undertaking

it has been thought, that notwithstanding its imperfections, it has been highly useful to the church.—Although, but moderately encouraged by those for whose benefit it was intended, and at no time receiving more support than was necessary to sustain its publication—the conviction has gathered strength in the body from which it originated, and we believe throughout the church generally, that its continued publication was greatly to be desired. In consequence of this, at the session at Winchester, new arrangements were made in regard to it, which consisted principally in the appointment of the Rev. D. F. Schaeffer as the sole editor. The pages of this periodical have presented to its readers much information concerning our church in America—and have been frequently employed in the defence of the General Synod, as well as the support of its Theological Seminary.

In conclusion, we would remark that great uniformity of doctrinal views, & unanimity in regard to the measures of the General Synod exist in this body, whilst with visible blessings they labour in the cause of the Triune God—they are determined generally and individually “to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

During the past year this Synod was bereft by death of the Rev. Mr. FLOUR, one of its best and most respected members.

IN THE SYNOD OF OHIO

the field of labour for ministers of the Lutheran church is daily extending, and the brethren of that body are making every possible exertion to meet the increasing demands for ministerial labour. The character of this Synod has been uniformly marked with zeal and enterprize and self-denial in the cause of the Redeemer. The interests of piety and orthodoxy are faithfully defended by this body, and the pastoral addresses occasionally appended to their printed minutes, contain the native effusions of hearts alive to the welfare of souls. The General Synod as a testimonial of

fraternal affection for this Synod, appointed the Rev. Mr. Sharretts as delegate to attend its next meeting. From the report on

THE SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA

we make the following extracts :

“From the report on the state of religion contained in the minutes of this Synod, it appears that our church is rapidly increasing ; that the borders of our Zion are daily extending, and that the indefatigable efforts of our Lutheran brethren have not been in vain. This venerable body now consists of 16 Ministers ; that they have the care of 42 congregations, to whom the bread of life is regularly broken ; there are ten vacant and a still greater number might be organized if there were more labourers—A number of congregations have been refreshed with gentle breezes of the outpourings of the Spirit of God.

We have cause to be grateful to a kind Providence, that peace and harmony exist among us as a body ; that the doctrines of the Bible as published by the great Reformer of Saxony, and echoed by the Augsburg confession, are substantially taught, and the spirit of our ecclesiastical standards generally maintained.

The mournfully destitute state of the churches in many places, the many repeated and loud calls from different parts of the country, & the urgent necessity of additional ministerial labourers, should excite us to redoubled diligence, and cause us to exert every nerve in the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom.”

Although this report is already extended to an undue length, the General Synod cannot deny themselves the pleasure of laying before the churches the patriarchal and cheering letter received at this meeting from their beloved and aged father the REV. MR. SHOBER.

“The time is drawing nigh when the General Synod will again enter upon their duties & how gladly would I be placed in some corner to listen to the deliberations of the worthy members, and to say “Amen” to every

heartfelt expression, as to the best means of extending the Redeemers kingdom; but it is probable from my age and infirmities, that this pleasure will forever be denied me. The worthy members composing the General Synod will no doubt gladden the friends of Jesus and consequently our true brethren in the faith, by publishing in the Minutes to the Glory of the Lord, all the Mercies he has manifested towards us. This will tend to awaken a greater interest in the prosperity of the Seminary; for when the lovers of the Saviour, who, untill now have been in doubt, shall see how the Lord has attended with his blessing, this work, which was begun only in *Hope* there will certainly many be found, who through their liberality will then encourage it, that many of our distant churches will exclaim: "This is the Lords doing, Hallelujah"!

It would distress our friends in Europe if our attachment to this institution would appear less ardent than theirs; but how would they rejoice, to hear their brethren have excelled them in their works of charity, and that through the interest which they both feel, it was becoming evident, that our Seminary will prosper because it is grounded upon Christ the Son of God and Man.

When we reflect that a Spirit of life is pervading true christians of every denomination, and place ourselves a little way into futurity, we too may confidently expect that from the Rocky Mountains, the Lake of the Woods, Michigan, Illinois, and Arkansas, we may soon hear our brethren call: "Come over and help us." And how glorious would it be if the longings for faithful Pastors, which already meet our ears could be satisfied, by the means of well educated disciples of the Lord.—Such as would not be ashamed, in the commencement of their labours, even to become tentmakers, like Paul. If a spirit of humility be preserved among the Students, and the love of Jesus become deeply rooted, all self-importance will vanish. They will not then drive the sheep before them, but will themselves lead the way, and by the cords of love will draw them to the sweet pastures of a Saviour's merits—and though in their commencement, such should have scanty supply of bread, yet if they were at any time asked: "Did you ever lack any thing," they would answer, "NO, NEVER,"

If it would please the Lord according to his promise to pour out upon our congregations, the spirit of grace and of prayer, then would our young brethren come to the conclusion: To him I owe my existence, Him will I serve, because he has loved me, and redeemed the Souls of Men upon the cross, and because he is willing to use me as an instrument to bring in many as the reward of his sufferings.

The request contained in this letter, that the General Synod should publish the donations made to the Seminary they are not able at this time fully to comply with; the subscription books being scattered throughout the country. A

small commencement of such an acknowledgement is annexed to this address, which may be continued in the future Minutes.

THE SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA

is gradually and rapidly rising into notice and usefulness. This body was organized on the 14th January 1824, at St. Michaels church, Lexington District, South Carolina. There had indeed been several ministers in that State more than thirty years ago, but they had been connected with the Synod of North Carolina. As their number had now increased to eight, the erection of a new Synod was deemed expedient and has been followed with the happiest results. A second meeting of this body was held at St. John's church in November of the same year, at which were present, eight ministers and nine lay delegates, from twenty four churches. Since that time this Synod has been actively engaged, their number both of ministers and churches is rapidly increasing, and at their next meeting the General Synod hope to see representatives from this respected body.

Concerning the highly meritorious and successful exertions of their agent the **REV. B. KURTZ** for the Theological Seminary and the state of religion in

GERMANY,

the General Synod would add the following extracts of a letter from **REV. DR. KIEWEL** of Danzig. "I embrace with pleasure the opportunity now offered to give you an account of the success of your agent the **Rev. B. Kurtz**. His dignified and truly christian deportment in Germany and the other sections of Europe which he visited, as well as his practical and highly edifying sermons, have gained him the respect and affection of all, and awakened a lasting interest in his behalf; whilst at the same time they promoted the object of his mission even beyond his own expectations, and prove that a kind Providence had pointed him out as best adapted for the work assigned him. I gladly

avail myself of this opportunity to give you some information on the state of religion in this country. I will merely say a few words on the Province of East and West Prussia in which I reside. It is indeed a splendid evidence of the divinity of our heavenly king and a glorious fulfilment of his promise in Mark 13, 31. "heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away," that we see the spark of gospel light, which had long been concealed beneath the darkness of human wisdom and the traditions of men, warming the hearts of multitudes and blazing forth with increasing lustre. Since the gospel is again preached in its purity, and the doctrines of human depravity, and repentance, and faith in the divine Redeemer, are freely and generally inculcated, public worship is again attended and religion prospers. The deep interest which is felt in Bible and Missionary Societies, the cheerful aid afforded to every object connected with the progress of religion, the erection of new churches and the repairing of such as were decayed, all these circumstances afford the strongest evidence that religion is in a very prosperous state. There are indeed still many left who advocate the cause of error, and some who have fallen into enthusiasm and given occasion to the enemy to ridicule the devotion of those who worship God in spirit and in truth." On the subject of

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

the General Synod would address their constituents in the language of the Pastoral letter sent from Europe by the REV. MR. KURTZ to his congregations: merely premising that the amount of his collections inclusive of his expenses is \$ 12,000, and that though a good beginning is now made, much more remains to be done. The institution labours under many difficulties from the want of the necessary buildings in which the students could be boarded together, in which our large and respectable Library could be put up, and the other conveniences be enjoyed which are ne-

cessary fully to carry into effect the plan devised for the Seminary, and to put it on an equality with other similar institutions of our country. More particularly is it desirable as soon as practicable to elect a second Professor, as no individual can possibly attend sufficiently to all the departments of the course, and the strongest constitution must soon sink under the weight of so much labour and responsibility.

IN CONCLUSION, (says our Revd. agent) permit me to dwell for a few moments on the subject of my European tour. Through the tender compassion of God our heavenly Father, my life and health have thus far been preserved, and that too amidst numerous exposures and dangers; for which I desire to be very thankful. It has also pleased him in his mercy, to smile upon my feeble efforts in the accomplishment of the work assigned me. I have been welcomed by our brethren of the faith with open arms, and received every mark of regard and affection. Their hearts and their houses have been thrown open to me, whilst the most influential of both sexes have co-operated in serving the good cause, so that I am not only satisfied with the result thus far, but rejoice and feel myself loudly called upon to bless the name of Him who has the hearts of the people in his hands, and knows how to devise ways and means to effect his own purposes. But shall our brethren at so great a distance evince such zeal for our Theological Seminary, and we, in whose midst it is springing up, remain cold and indifferent spectators? Shall they who have so many burdens to bear, cheerfully take a part of this burden upon themselves, and we whose lot has been cast in so favoured a country, hold back? Shall they who can feel no greater interest in this institution than that which they take in the church of Christ at large, *give liberally*, whilst we who are so vitally concerned *contribute sparingly*? Oh! let us not incur this reproach,—let us not prove ourselves the degenerate children of pious forefathers—let us not so far depart from that liberal and benevolent character which our German ancestors always sustained, and which they handed down to us

untarnished and unsullied. Remember, the institution whose cause I am endeavouring to plead, is a christian one, founded on the rock CHRIST, and especially necessary for the preservation and extension of our church—the spiritual and eternal interests of our children and children's children to the latest posterity are contemplated by it. Remember, that all you have is merely a trust, which will soon be placed in other hands, but which at present is at your disposal, in order that you may give it liberally for the cause of Christ. Bear in mind, how many mercies God has bestowed upon us, whilst we are destitute of a single claim on his favour—how much the Son of God has done for us, though we were his enemies, and what an awful responsibility we will load upon ourselves, if we refuse to give when he commands us to give.—Consider, how little we have comparatively done for the cause of Christ Jesus—look at other denominations—look at our sister churches all around us, how active—how liberal are they! Shall we then alone stand idle? Shall we alone retain with penurious grasp that which in a few years more can be of no earthly benefit to us, but which if now properly applied, may prove an eternal blessing to thousands yet unborn!—Look at the people of the world, how they pour out their treasures to erect houses of amusements, and to support destructive vanities—nay look at the thousands among the heathens, much poorer than you, expending enormous sums to rear temples of idolatry, and support pernicious superstitions; and shall we who bear the dignified appellation of christians, and profess to be inspired by better principles and to be influenced by nobler motives grudge to support an institution established for the honour of Christ?

Brethren, I beseech you to “*beware of a saving that tendeth to poverty,*” I entreat you to lay aside all excuses, and to do something *effectual* for the kingdom of Him who lived that you might not die, and died that you might live forever. I conjure all who lay claim to the name of Lutheran christians, to arise from their lethargy, to put forth all their strength, and to establish permanently the infant institution that promises so much usefulness to our Zion in particular, and

to the Redeemer's cause in general. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver, and it is more blessed to give than to receive."

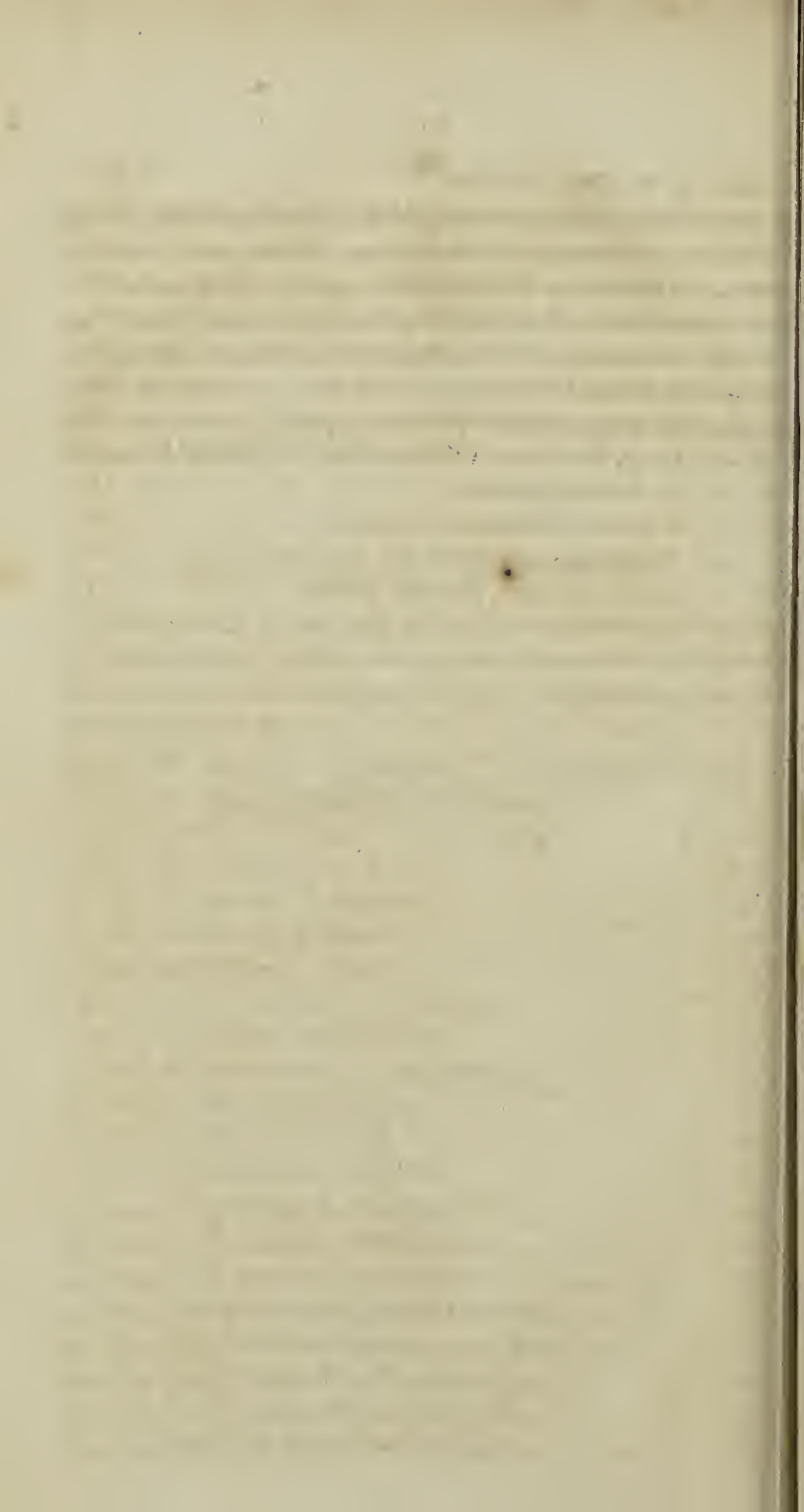
Now to the great Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, the eternal Son of God—"who is God over all blessed for evermore," be ascribed honour, praise and glory throughout the endless ages of eternity ! And may the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds, through Jesus Christ ! Amen.

DONATIONS TO THE SEMINARY.

The General Synod can at present acknowledge merely the subscriptions of their clerical brethren as far as known. Others have subscribed and to many application has not yet been made.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Rev. G. Shober, <i>N. Carolina,</i> | 2433 acres of land. |
| — Professor Schmucker, <i>Gettysburg,</i> | |
| for the support of poor students. | \$ 1000 |
| — Dr. Schmucker, <i>Fork,</i> | 100 |
| — J. Herbst, <i>Gettysburg,</i> | 100 |
| — J. Morris, <i>Baltimore,</i> | 100 |
| — Dr. Kurtz, <i>do.</i> | 50 |
| — D. F. Schæffer, <i>Fredricktown,</i> | 50 |
| — H. Stecher, <i>Fork County,</i> | 50 |
| — D. M'Conaughy, <i>Gettysburg,</i> | 50 |
| — A. Reck, <i>Middletown,</i> | 50 |
| — B. Keller, <i>Carlisle,</i> | 50 |
| — J. Scherer, <i>N. Carolina,</i> | 50 |
| — J. G. Schmick, <i>Sinking Valley,</i> | 37 |
| — C. P. Krauth, <i>Philadelphia,</i> | 30 |
| — J. W. Smith, <i>Middleburg,</i> | 30 |
| — J. Albert, <i>Berlin, Adams County,</i> | 30 |
| — Dr. Paxton, <i>Millerstown, A. C.</i> | 25 |
| — M. Meyerheffer, <i>Virginia,</i> | 25 |
| — S. Hoshour, <i>New Market, Va.</i> | 25 |
| — Dr. E. S. Ely, <i>Philadelphia,</i> | 25 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Rev. J. W. Heim, <i>Mifflin,</i> | \$ 25 |
| — A. H. Lochman, <i>Harrisburg,</i> | 25 |
| — J. P. Shindel, <i>Sunbury,</i> | 25 |
| — J. G. Heim, <i>East Buffola,</i> | 25 |
| — J. Reck, <i>N. Carolina,</i> | 25 |
| — J. Kriegler, <i>Berlin, Somerset County,</i> | 20 |
| — F. Heyer, <i>Somerset,</i> | 20 |
| — R. Grier, <i>Adams County,</i> | 20 |
| — G. H. Weygant, <i>Williamsport, Washington C.</i> | 15 |
| — N. Stroh, <i>Newville,</i> | 10 |
| — J. Ball, <i>Wilksbarre,</i> | 10 |
| — W. Yeager, <i>Bedford,</i> | 10 |
| — G. A. Reichert, <i>Indiana County,</i> | 10 |



15

MINUTES
OF
THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Fifth General Synod
OF THE
EV. LUTH. CHURCH,
IN THE
United States.

Convened at HAGERSTOWN, Md.

OCTOBER, 1829.

GETTYSBURG :
PRINTED AT THE PRESS OF THE THEOL. SEMINARY.

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H. C. NEINSTEDT, PRINTER.
1829.

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MINUTES

OF

THE FIFTH GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH.



ON Saturday the 24th of October, A. D. 1829, the clerical and lay-delegates composing this body, assembled at Hagers-town. At candlelight divine service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Reck from North Carolina.

On Sunday morning, the Rev. Dr. KURTZ, as President of the Synod, delivered the Pastoral Discourse from Matthew 22, 4. in the German language. The Lord's Supper was then administered to the members of the Synod, and a numerous assemblage of members of the church.

In the afternoon the Secretary, Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, preached upon Hebrews 12, 1. 2. After which the Holy Supper was administered in the English language, to such members of the church as were not familiar with the German language. At night the Rev. Professor Schmucker delivered a discourse on 2 Peter 1, 16.

An immense concourse of persons attended the services during the whole day, and greater solemnity has seldom been witnessed at a Synodical meeting. Sermons were delivered also by our brethren, in the German Reformed, Methodist and United Brethren, churches.

Monday, 8 o'clock A. M.—the President constituted the Synod by prayer, after the brethren had united in singing an hymn.

The Minutes of the different Synods, and other credentials were then presented, from which it appeared, that the following brethren were entitled to seats as members of the General Synod:

FROM THE SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Rev. JOHN RECK,
M. MILLER, Esq.

Rev. J. P. CLINE.
T. J. MYERS, Esq.

FROM THE SYNOD OF MARYLAND & VIRGINIA.

Rev. D. F. SCHÆFFER.
— J. G. MORRIS.
F. NUSZ, Esq.

Rev. B. KURTZ.
G. SHRYOCK.

FROM THE SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA.

Rev. W. HEIM.
— W. YEAGER
— J. CRIGLER.

P. BERLIN.
Major F. SHARRETS.

The Synod then proceeded to the election of officers, and on counting the ballots, it appeared that

REV. B. KURTZ was elected

President.

— D. F. SCHÆFFER,

Secretary.

C. A. BARNITZ, Esq.

Treasurer.

The following brethren were admitted as advisory members

Rev. Dr. KURTZ, Rev. Messrs. A. RECK, J. HERBST, HOSHOOR, WINTER, MEDTART, HEYER, RUTHRAUFF, F. BAUGHER and Professor SCHMUCKER.

Rev. Messrs. J. BRUNNER and BEECHER delegates from the German Reformed Synod appeared, were received with friendly attention and admitted as advisory members.

The following Committees were then appointed, to examine and report on the Minutes of the several Synods represented in this body :

1. Rev. J. G. Morris and F. Nusz, Esq. to report on the Minutes of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia.

2. Rev. J. Reck and G. Shryock, Esq. on the Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina.

3. Rev. F. Ruthrauff and Rev. J. Herbst, on those of West Pennsylvania.

Whereas the General Synod regard with feelings of the warmest friendship and interest those Synods, which are not in connexion with them, and feel a desire to enable their constituents to rejoice in the progress of the Redeemer's kingdom throughout our whole church, the following Committees were appointed :

4. Rev. J. Crigler and Major Sharretts, on those of South Carolina.

Rev. S. S. Schmucker and Rev. Yeager, to collect other information, relative to the state of our church, under the jurisdiction of other Lutheran Synods, to be embodied in the Minutes of the General Synod.

The Secretary read a letter which he lately received from our venerable Father Shober, containing \$10 for the General Synod. Whereupon it was

Resolved, That we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Rev. G. Shober for the deep interest he manifests for our Zion, & also, for the donation he has made, and that Dr. Kurtz be requested to answer said letter.

Dr. Kurtz laid on the table an official letter from the Rev. Dr. Hazelius, President of the Synod of New York, respecting the Minutes and other documents of the General Synod. It was ordered to be read, whereupon it was

Resolved, 1st. That the General Synod have received with much pleasure, the official and friendly communication from the Synod of New York, through their worthy President.

Resolved, 2d. That the President of this Synod, answer said communication, and express our fraternal regard for said Synod.

Resolved, 3d. That, whereas the General Synod has no other documents, than those, published in the Minutes, the President forward a copy of all the Minutes to the Rev. Dr. Hazelius.

It having been stated that several clauses of the Constitution of this Synod have been misunderstood by well-meaning persons, and that the change of a few words would remove this difficulty:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the Constitution of this Synod, and report, whether or not, any amendment be requisite.

Rev. Messrs. Heim, Cline, Morris, and Messrs. Berlin, Nusz and Shryock, were appointed.

Rev. Mr. Brunner delivered to this body 12 copies of the Minutes of the German Reformed Synod.

Resolved, That 12 copies of the Minutes of this body be presented to the German Reformed Synod, as an evidence of the con-

tinnance of the best feelings existing between the two churches.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, consisting of two brethren, to report on the Minutes of the German Reformed Synod. — The Rev. Messrs. A. Reck and J. Herbst were appointed.

It was stated by members from different Synods, that a desire for some good practical work, published under the sanction of our church, very generally prevailed. The propriety of the General Synod's promoting such a publication was discussed, after which the Rev. Mr. Morris informed the brethren, that he had already made considerable progress in the preparation of such a work. It was therefore

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Kurtz, Messrs. A. Reck, S. S. Schmucker, J. Morris, and Messrs. Berlin and Sharretts, be a Committee to draft a plan for publishing such devotional books as this Synod may desire for the use of the church.

A letter signed by the Rev. J. P. Cline, was read. The substance of it is, that the brethren in Virginia have resolved, to organize themselves as a separate and distinct Synod, believing, that such a measure will enable them to promote, in a greater degree, the cause of Christianity of our church, & as they could then hold Synodical meetings in any part of Virginia. They request the approbation of this Synod.

As the brethren in Virginia have the number of ordained Pastors required by the Constitution of the General Synod, before a new Synod can be organized, their request was granted unanimously.

After prayer, the morning session was closed.

3 o'clock, the Synod was constituted by prayer.

Dr. Kurtz stated : "That the committee appointed to draft a plan of a devotional book for Catechumens and Christians in general, were now ready to report a plan of such a work.

The report was read and adopted, and Dr. Kurtz, D. F. Schaeffer, B. Kurtz, S. S. Schmucker and J. G. Morris, were appointed a committee to superintend this publication.

The committee appointed to examine the Constitution of this Synod, in order to ascertain, whether any amendments be requisite, made report, viz :

That for the sake of perspicuity and to obviate misconstructions, it be recommended to the different Synods to adopt the fol-

lowing amendments—after Evangelical, Article 2, part 1, insert **Lutheran:** To Article 1, Sec. 5, add “on non-fundamental doctrines.” Art. 3, Sec. 8, after “in general” add “in order that the blessed opportunities to promote concord and unity, and the interests of the Redeemer’s kingdom may not pass by neglected and unavailing.” Art. 3, Sec. 6, add after “orphans of” poor.

For these Articles as amended, see the close of these Minutes.

The report was adopted.

Delegates to different Synods were now appointed.

Rev. J. Herbst to the Synod of Ohio.

Rev. D. F. Schaeffer to New York.

Rev. Drs. Kurtz and Schmucker to East Pennsylvania.

Rev. W. Artz to South Carolina.

Rev. B. Kurtz and Rev. J. Winter to the German Reformed Synod.

After prayer, the Synod adjourned.

This evening the Rev. A. Reck preached, text, John 3, 36.

At 8 o’clock in the evening, the Synod resumed its business.

The Rev. Mr. Baird, Agent of the American Sunday School Union, was introduced as a delegate from said society.

The committee appointed at the last General Synod to draft a Constitution for the different Synods, united in the General Synod, made report, and the consideration thereof was deferred to the morning session. A motion to adjourn, prevailed, and a prayer closed the business of this evening.

Tuesday, 8 o’clock, the Synod was constituted by prayer.

Reports on the Minutes of the different Synods were made.

Rev. Mr. Smith, of the Methodist Church, was introduced.

The Constitution of the different Synods was now read and discussed, and occupied the morning session. Adjourned after prayer.

At 2 o’clock, P. M. the Synod was constituted by prayer.

The discussion of the Constitution was resumed, and continued until 4 o’clock, when the Rev. Mr. Baird, agent of the American Sunday School Union appeared.

Resolved, That the Synod now hear the object of the Rev. Mr. Baird’s mission.

Mr. Baird having stated at full length the object of his mission, it was

Resolved, 1st, That this body has heard with much pleasure and gratefully accept the generous offers of the American Sunday school Union, made through their Agent, to afford every possible aid in promoting the Sunday school cause within our bounds.

Resolved 2dly, That a constitution for a Sunday school Union of the Lutheran Church, be formed by this body, and that the necessary measures for its general adoption be taken.

Resolved, 3d, That a committee of eight members of this body be appointed to draft and report a constitution.

Rev. Messrs. Heyer, J. G. Morris, J. Reck, J. Medtart, and Messrs. Sharrets, Nusz, Berlin, and Shryock, were accordingly appointed.

Prayer being offered, the Synod adjourned.

This evening the Rev. Mr. Heyer preached, text, Matthew 17, 2. 3. 4.

After service, the Synod resumed its business.

The constitution for the Synods was again taken into consideration, and after being amended, it was

Resolved, That it be, and it is, hereby recommended to the different Synods, united in the General synod, to adopt this Constitution for their government.

Resolved, That 250 copies be printed.

After prayer, the Synod adjourned.

Wednesday, 8 o'clock A. M. prayer.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Synod are due to the members of the Lutheran church, and other citizens of Washington county, Md. for their very liberal subscription to the second Professorship of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa.

Upon the case of John Menser, (a casuistic question) which was referred by the Synod, of North Carolina to this Synod, it was

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, to take the subject into serious consideration, and report thereon at the next General Synod, and that the President communicate this resolution to the President of the N. C. Synod.

The committee consists of Dr. Kurtz, Dr. Schmucker, Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, and Rev. B. Kurtz.

Resolved, That the Rev. J. G. Morris be added to the committee appointed to make arrangements for the sale of the hymn-

book, and that depositories be established in Greensburg, Westmoreland county, Pa. in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, and one in North Carolina.

Resolved, that this Synod views with great approbation, the exertions of our different Synods, in behalf of Sunday Schools, and recommends the formation of a Sunday School Union of the Lutheran church.

Resolved, That this Synod issue a Pastoral letter to our churches, and the Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, B. Kurtz and Professor Schmucker be a committee to prepare the same.

Resolved, That the minutes of this Synod be printed, viz : 400 copies in the German, and 400 copies in the English language.

The business of the Synod having been transacted, the time and place of the next meeting were determined, viz : Winchester, Va. on the 4th Sunday in October, A. D. 1831.

The brethren then united in prayer, commending themselves and the church in general, to the protection and favor of Jesus Christ, God over all, blessed forever ! and adjourned.

Attest

DAVID F. SCHÆFFER.

Secretary.

SECOND
STATED REPORT
 OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
 TO THE
GENERAL SYNOD
 OF THE
 EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES,
 ON THE STATE OF THEIR SEMINARY.

The Board congratulate themselves and the church at large, that in their second report, they are able to represent the Seminary under their care in the most prosperous condition. They recognize the hand of a benevolent Providence in crowning their

efforts with complete success, and pray that His strong right arm may still continue to lead and uphold them, while they exert themselves yet more in behalf of this school of the prophets. The prospects before them are increasingly flattering, and every successive session affords them more proof, that this interesting institution will accomplish its original design, to supply our church with a pious and learned ministry.

At the meeting of the board last spring, the first class of students consisting of eight members, passed the final examination, and acquitted themselves in a manner highly creditable to their own industry and talents, while the peculiar qualifications of their instructor were equally evinced. The public addresses delivered by them on that occasion afforded abundant evidence that they had successfully prosecuted the study of elocution, so important to the preacher, while they gave equal proof that the hearts of the speakers were warm with the love of God and of immortal souls. All these are already actively engaged in the field of service, and most of them have gone to those sections of the church where the destitution was greatest, and where the cry for ministerial aid has most frequently come up. Three are now laboring in North Carolina, two in Maryland, two in West Pennsylvania, and one in East Pennsylvania. Of the influence already exerted by them, very pleasing information has been received and various letters of thanks from the destitute for sending them spiritual guides. Since that time 13 students have connected themselves with the Seminary, the whole number now being twenty six, which exceeds that of any former time, making the whole number who are, or who have been, connected with the institution, since the beginning, forty three.

The Examinations have been regularly attended by the Board, which have always afforded them such satisfaction, both with pupils and teacher, that they uniformly retire, more deeply than ever, impressed with the incalculable importance of the institution, and the high claims it lays to the support and prayer of the church. Its spiritual interests they regard as superior to all others and they rejoice to report, that in this respect it is in the highest degree prosperous. The students seem ardently devoted to the cause of their divine Master, and to deport them-

selves, as tho' they felt in a peculiar degree the responsibility of the office to which they are aspiring. This is constantly impressed on their minds, and they deeply feel its influence.

The students have associated themselves together, into several societies for improvement and exercise, and they have already experienced their most salutary effects. The Missionary Society was established soon after the institution was founded, and continues in active existence and growing importance to the present time. Its object is to collect missionary information from every quarter of the world, and to excite within their own hearts a spirit of Missionary enterprize. From an epistolary correspondence with similar societies in other theological Seminaries, and the perusal of nearly all the religious publications of the day, all the information is collected relative the Missionary operations in their own and other churches. The first Wednesday of every Month is set apart for the transaction of the business of this society, when the correspondence, an essay on some Missionary subject, or an original biography of some eminent Missionary are read. Thus the spirit for such operations is kept alive and growing, and the energies of the soul roused to active and ardent prayer.

Another association has been formed which is called "The Mechanical Society", the object of which is to spend two or three hours of every day in Mechanical labour, which, while it will invigorate the body by healthful exercise, will also contribute materially to the support of such, who are now dependent on the Christian liberality of others. Similar societies are now in successful operation at several of the most respectable theological Seminaries of our country. They are of immense value to students, and hence have received the approbation of the enlightened friends of the church. The operations of the Society in connexion with our Seminary, have been somewhat retarded by want of funds to purchase the necessary apparatus and tools, it is hoped that Christian friends will not suffer it to languish for want of the requisite support.

The state of the Classical department, with which a number of the theological students are at present connected, is very flourishing. During the last year an additional teacher was employed to instruct in the sciences, so that now there are two

eminently qualified teachers superintending that branch of the general institution, which is regarded as an efficient auxiliary to the theological department.

Shortly after the last meeting of the General Synod, the first SCHOLARSHIP was founded by a donation of \$ 1000 from Professor S. S. Schmucker. We hope to see this example of distinguished liberality imitated by many of our brethren, until every indigent student in our church, will have the means of acquiring the necessary theological education. The Board passed the following resolution in reference to this subject: "Resolved that the Board express their thanks to Professor Schmucker for his liberal donation in thus founding the first scholarship of this institution for the purpose of aiding pious young men in preparing themselves for the gospel ministry in this Seminary." The sum is payable in ten equal annual instalments, two of which are already paid. Four young men have already received aid from this fund. Four are supported by the liberality of that noble institution, the American Education Society, four by the Missionary and Education Society of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia, and one by the Female Education Society of the Lutheran Church in York.

At the meeting of the West Pennsylvania Synod held at York the following resolution was adopted :

"Many pious members of our church, and friends of our Theological Seminary, having for a length of time seen and felt the importance of augmenting the very limited funds of the Institution, in order thereby to raise its respectability and dignity, and especially with a view to give to it a more extended sphere of usefulness; and a number of them having accordingly suggested the wish, that suitable & effectual measures might be adopted to furnish to the treasury of said Seminary, a permanent fund of \$10,000 for the purpose of enabling the Board of Directors to call a second Professor from Germany. Therefore, we the subscribers, bind ourselves and heirs, to pay in two equal annual instalments, to the Treasurer of the Seminary, the sum of \$ 100, on condition that before the expiration of twelve months, one hundred persons, including ourselves, shall consent to do the same, on the same terms; allowing at the same time

to any one who may not feel himself able to pay the whole of said amount himself, the privilege of uniting with others, for the payment of it."

And the following ten gentlemen immediately subscribed it, viz :

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. J. DANIEL KURTZ, D. D. | Rev. JOHN N. HOFFMAN, |
| — J. G. SCHMUCKER, | — LEWIS EICHELBERGER, |
| — JNO. G. MORRIS, | — G. A. REICHERT & |
| — BENJAMIN KURTZ, | — N. G. SHARRETTS, |
| Mr. G. SCHMUCKER, | — DAVID JACOBS. |
| Rev. G. HEILIG, | |

Since that time, about as many more voluntarily sent in their names. Last spring Professor Schmucker undertook a voluntary agency in Philadelphia and New York, and obtained \$3000. Reverend Dr. Schmucker was appointed by the Board to visit Washington County in Maryland, and obtained \$3800 more. This is an eminent proof of the liberality of the people in that county, for which they deserve the gratitude of the friends of the Institution. At the last session of the General Synod a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the friends of our church in Washington County, who so liberally contributed to the support of the Seminary.

At an adjourned meeting of the Board held at Hagerstown on the 27th of October, it was unanimously resolved that a beginning should be made in the erection of buildings, and a committee was appointed to select and purchase a site, to select a plan and issue proposals for building. The funds, indeed are not sufficient to erect the necessary edifices, but it is hoped that all arrearages will be paid, and the friends of the institution, ever so willing, will not let the work fail for want of funds.

Before closing this report the Board deem it no less a pleasure than an obligation again to record the continued liberality of our benefactors in Germany. Although several years have elapsed since the return of our beloved brother, the Reverend B. Kurtz, the stream of German liberality has not yet entirely ceased to flow. Since the last report of this Board several additional boxes with books and female needlework, have been received, so that this Institution really possesses the largest theological

Library in the United States, amounting to more than 6000 vols. This the Board regard as a circumstance of peculiar importance, as it presents to the students almost irresistible inducements to the study of the language and literature of Germany. They are happy also to have it in their power to state that of all the students of our church who have come forth from the Seminary, every one had made the German language the subject of particular study, and all excepting two, now statedly preach in that language.

It was originally the fixed intention of the Board to select some distinguished divine of Germany of well known piety, talents and learning, to fill the second professorship in their Seminary, and such would still be their ardent desire. But much to their surprise they have found that the proposed measure does not meet the approbation of all our churches, & what is more remarkable still, that it is least popular in those sections of the church, which are most German, especially in East Pennsylvania. The only objection seems to be the apprehension, that a European could not so well accommodate himself to the peculiar views and situation of our ecclesiastical and civil institutions. What course the Board will ultimately feel it a duty to pursue, they cannot now determine.

The Board feel desirous of being devoutly grateful to God for His blessing upon their feeble efforts, and would humbly and fervently commend this valuable institution to the prayers and liberality of all true friends of the Lutheran Church, and to the guidance and blessing of that Triune God to whose glory it is dedicated.

PASTORAL ADDRESS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN IN CHRIST !

The General Synod in approaching again the different Synods and Churches of whose representatives she is composed, would come wishing grace, mercy and peace, through God, our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, to you all, and to all those, in every place, who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus. Whilst sending these words of brotherly love to those scattered over different and distant parts of our land, and labouring, amid various circumstances of difficulty and encouragement, and as co-workers with one another and with God, in promoting the same cause, our spirit is stirred up within us, we seem, as it were, lifted upon some high eminence, from which the little borders of Synodical division disappear, and the whole body seems as one family. From this evangelical Pisgah we would call to you all : Go on brethren ! Cry aloud and call sinners to repentance ! Go on brethren, feeding the flock of Christ, and bringing home the wandering sheep, and as ye go remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he spake : “ye are all brethren.”

Amid these circumstances we rejoice anew in the grand design of the General Synod of our church. This design is not to produce an absolute uniformity in minor points of doctrine, for we have no reason to believe that this existed even in the primitive church ; and we are decidedly of opinion, that whilst the grand doctrines of the Reformation are absolutely insisted on, every minister and lay-man should have full liberty to approach the study of his bible untrammelled by the shackles of human creeds.

The General Synod therefore only requires of those who are attached to her connexion, that they hold the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel as taught in the Augsburg Confession, and in all minor points leaves them unrestricted. On the one hand we are not able to go with those, who renounce unconditionally all creeds and confessions, because we cannot see how Socinians could

be effectually excluded from the Church without them. But we feel well assured, that the great majority of creeds in the christian church, by entering far too much into minor ramifications of doctrine, and attaching too great importance to subordinate and even doubtful points, have cherished in the most direct manner, and from their very nature must cherish the unhallowed spirit of bigotry and sectarianism. It cannot, we think, be doubted by any one who has paid attention to this subject, that there are in each of the several orthodox denominations, and often in the same individual congregations, persons differing from each other as much as their several creeds do. Why then should not all the Synods, which bear the name of the immortal LUTHER, and still retain the cardinal views of that illustrious Reformer, be associated together by the very slender bond of our General Synod, though they may not agree in some points not touching the fundamental doctrines of the Augsburg Confession? The General Synod has no power to call to account the members of individual Synods for any offence in doctrine or practice: nay, if it were even known to her, that some member of a Synod had become guilty of the most flagrant crimes, or of fundamental heresy, she has no power to call him to account, and could do no more than admonish the individual Synod, to which the offender belongs, to take cognizance of the case. And if a Synod should refuse to require orthodoxy on fundamental points of her members, then she might be excluded from the General Synod by a vote of said body. In short the several Synods, now four in number, constituting the General Synod, are so many independent ecclesiastical polities, associated merely for the purpose of promoting brotherly love, and of concentrating their energies in effecting such objects as are of general interest, and such as one Synod alone could not accomplish. This bond of union is probably more lax than many, for want of an opportunity to see the Constitution, have been led to suppose. We have therefore deemed it necessary to append to these Minutes, an entire copy of the General Synod's Constitution. This measure we hope, will tend to increase those friendly feelings in regard to this body, which we are happy to learn, are becoming more general in those portions of our church, not yet in connexion with us.

To our brethren of the Synods not yet connected with us, from some of whom a fraternal epistle was received, & a majority of whom approve of the General Synod, we would say : look over the Constitution, which some of you aided in forming and which remains unaltered, and over the minutes of this body. Their general spirit, and the grand objects at which we aim ; we know you love and approve : if then you find any thing, which you would wish altered, communicate your wishes by letter or by a personal representative at our next meeting, and any alteration consistent with the grand design of the association, will doubtless be made with pleasure. By the recent formation of a new Synod, embracing all the brethren resident in Virginia, and styled

THE SYNOD OF VIRGINIA,

the number of Synods connected with the General Synod is increased to four ; and we have reason to hope that the time is not far distant, when the other associations of Lutheran brethren will also unite with us.

Concerning the Constitution for Synods adopted at this meeting, we would merely remark, that it is truly Lutheran in its character ; being in substance little else than a condensed and systematic view of the old Constitution of Pennsylvania and that of New York which is chiefly a translation of the former. This plan was adopted for two reasons, because those instruments most fully met the views of the General Synod, and because the substantial adoption of those venerable constitutions would naturally remove all obstacles to the reception of this constitution by all the different Synods of our church. The first and ardent wish of the General Synod is, that the Formula for individual Congregations, the Constitution for Synods and the Constitution of the General Synod might all be adopted by the whole Lutheran Church. Then would we have one uniform, efficient, yet liberal, system of church-government, by which we cannot but believe the prosperity of our church would in a high degree be promoted. But if any Synod is unwilling to adopt the Formula for

individual churches, our next wish is to unite in adopting the remaining parts of the entire system, namely the Constitution for Synods and the General Synod. And, finally, if any Synod should prefer not adopting the Constitution for Synods, as good Lutherans we do not object, for we are perfectly willing to join in the GENERAL SYNOD, those whose individual regulations in their Synod and churches differ from ours.

Instead of entering into a detailed view of the state of the different Synods in this address, we have thrown that information into the form of statistical tables, annexed to these minutes. We would merely say, that the cause of the Redeemer seems to the prospering within our bounds in an unprecedented degree. Our congregations generally are awakening to the cause of christian benevolence and liberality. Education and Missionary Societies have been formed in great numbers; sunday - schools are in a very flourishing condition; the Bible and Tract cause finds many willing and efficient friends among us, prayer meetings are becoming more general, our Seminary and religious periodicals are receiving more general support, and ministers of the gospel, are encouraged, by all these evidences of the divine blessing, to increasing efforts and more ardent zeal for the cause of their divine Redeemer.

Congratulating you on the general prosperity of the Lutheran church, and of the church of the Redeemer throughout the earth, we close, by wishing you grace, mercy and peace through God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Geissenhainer jr.
 — J. D. Lawyer,
 — H. Moeller,
 — J. W. Starman,
 — H. Hayunga,
 — F. W. Lehman,
 — D. Hendricks,
 — P. G. Cole,
 — T. Lasse,
 — C. B. Thummel.

1 St. Matthew's, New York city.
 3 Stone Arabia, Minden and Palatine, Montgomery co.
 Hartwick.
 — Waldaborough, Me.
 —
 —
 — Saddle River and Ramapough, N. J.
 — Summit, Scholharic co. and Davenport, Delaware co.

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SYNOD OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA, 1829.

Rev. Schaeffer, D. D.
 — J. Jaeger,
 — Roeller,
 — Hecht,
 — J. Miller,
 — Ulrich,
 — Van Hoff,
 — Ernst,
 — Baetis,
 — Meendsen,
 — Becker,
 — Hemping,
 — Schindel,
 — Filbert,

1 Philadelphia, and Senior of the Ministerium.
 4 Allentown.
 3 Old Goshenhoppen.
 2 Easton.
 — Reading.
 7 Tolpenhocken, Wommelsdorf &c., Berks county.
 — Palmyra.
 5 Lebanon, Millerstown &c.
 4 Warwick.
 6 Kreidersville.
 1 Lancaster city.
 6 Lykens Valley.
 8 Sunbury.
 — Oley Township.

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|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|------|----|---|
| Rev. Probst. | 4 | Forks. | - | - | - | 174 | 136 | 752 | 16 | 4 |
| — Strein, | 4 | Columbia. | - | - | - | 86 | 32 | 226 | 28 | 3 |
| — Doering & } Wartman, | 6 | Jordan. | - | - | - | 181 | 68 | 932 | 52 | 7 |
| — Heim, | | Union county. | - | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Muennig, | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Ruppert, | | | | | | | | | | |
| — Trumbauer, | 5 | Leacock Township, Lancaster county. | - | - | - | 103 | 47 | 298 | 27 | 5 |
| — Keller, | 3 | Germantown, Philadelphia county. | - | - | - | 116 | 62 | 452 | 68 | 2 |
| — C. Miller, | 6 | Swamp. | - | - | - | 211 | 109 | 1020 | 57 | 6 |
| — Kessler, | 8 | Bloomsburg. | - | - | - | 168 | 74 | 673 | 39 | 4 |
| — B. German, | 4 | Maccunghy. | - | - | - | 128 | 112 | 928 | 24 | 4 |
| — Krauth, | 1 | Philadelphia. | - | - | - | 12 | 12 | 40 | — | — |
| — Demme, | | See Dr. Schaeffer's Report, Philadelphia. | | | | | | | | |
| — Weandt, | 1 | Lancaster city. | - | - | - | 15 | 10 | 73 | 4 | — |
| — Waltz, | | Hamburg. | - | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Stein, | 7 | Jonestown. | - | - | - | 110 | 43 | 738 | 28 | 6 |
| — G. Jaeger, | 7 | | - | - | - | 87 | 39 | 686 | 39 | 6 |
| — Lochman, | | | - | - | - | 40 | — | 425 | 30 | — |
| — Harrisburg, Middletown and Shupps. | 2 | | - | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Norristown, Montgomery county. | | | - | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Maytown, Elizabethtown & Marietta, Lancaster co. | 3 | | - | - | - | 45 | 41 | 184 | 24 | 1 |
| — Aaronsburg. | 5 | | - | - | - | 152 | 26 | 625 | 19 | 5 |
| — Upper Hannover. | 3 | | - | - | - | 90 | 43 | 404 | 22 | 2 |
| — Hummelstown. | 3 | | - | - | - | 54 | — | 135 | 35 | 3 |
| — Reichert, | | | - | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Bahl, | 4 | New Holland. | - | - | - | 105 | 73 | 427 | 38 | 4 |
| — Beilhartz, | | | - | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Seneca. | 4 | | - | - | - | 52 | 17 | 148 | 10 | 2 |

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| Rev. H. S. Miller, | 4 | Springfield. | - | - | - | 85 | 53 | 340 | 31 | 4 |
| — Eister, | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| — C. P. Miller, | 4 | - | - | - | - | 60 | 37 | 350 | 20 | 2 |
| — Wampole, | 4 | - | - | - | - | 72 | 54 | 454 | 31 | 2 |
| — J. Jaeger, | 4 | Pikeland, Chester county. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| — | 5 | See number 2. C. Jaeger. | - | - | - | 109 | 28 | 200 | 22 | 9 |
| — Gross, | 7 | Hamilton. | - | - | - | 146 | - | 166 | 24 | - |
| — Binninger, | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| — W. German, | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| — J. Roeller. | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA, 1829.

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|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Rev. Schmucker, D.D. | 4 | York, Quickels, Wolfs and Hubers church. | - | - | - | 194 | 104 | 864 | 69 | 4 |
| — J. Ruthrauf, | 4 | Greencastle. | - | - | - | 71 | 40 | 429 | 15 | 4 |
| — G. Græber, | | Kreitscreek, Tchochele and Strayers, York county. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| — Herbst, | | Gettysburg, Editor of the German "Ev. Magazine." | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| — Rebenack, | 1 | Johnstown. | - | - | - | 21 | 2 | 22 | 1 | 1 |
| — Scriba, | 3 | Strasburg. | - | - | - | 47 | - | 63 | 7 | 1 |
| — Heim, | 8 | Landisburg, Mifflin county. | - | - | - | 264 | 98 | 746 | 39 | 8 |
| — Heyer, | 3 | Carlisle. | - | - | - | 59 | 60 | 742 | 20 | 3 |
| — Stecher, | 8 | Martinsburg, York county. | - | - | - | 91 | 24 | 562 | 11 | 10 |
| — Jaeger, | 5 | Bedford county. | - | - | - | 126 | 55 | 720 | 12 | 1 |
| — Kriegler, | 6 | Berlin, Somerset county. | - | - | - | 131 | 54 | 660 | 19 | 4 |
| Prof. Schmucker, | | Theological Seminary, Gettysburg. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rev. Reichert, | 7 | Armstrong county. | - | - | - | 184 | 99 | 451 | 12 | 4 |
| — Ströh, | 7 | Newville. | - | - | - | 85 | 64 | 360 | 10 | 4 |
| — Ruthrauff jnr. | 4 | Hannover, Abbotstown. | - | - | - | 45 | 53 | 402 | 14 | 1 |

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| Rev. Scharretts, | Indiana county. | - | - | 50 | 21 | 183 | 3 | 1 |
| — E. Keller, | Mechanicksburg. | - | - | 39 | 12 | 261 | 28 | 3 |
| — Osterloh, | | | | | | | | |
| — Schultze, sen. | Erie. | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Schmidt, | Middleburg. | - | - | 203 | 24 | 1059 | 48 | — |
| — Meyer, | Cincinnati. | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Brown, | Washington county. | - | - | 28 | — | 121 | 8 | 3 |
| — Martin, | Williamsburg, Huntingdon county. | - | - | 53 | — | 169 | 6 | 2 |
| — Schultze, jr. | Somerset county. | - | - | 45 | 32 | 61 | 6 | 2 |
| — Deininger, | Berlin, Adams county. | - | - | 104 | 46 | 289 | 13 | 5 |
| — Heilig, | Somerset. | - | - | 55 | 13 | 175 | 8 | 3 |
| — J. Oswald, | York. | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — D. Jacobs. | Professor of languages in the Classical department of the Seminary at Gettysburg. | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Moser, | Huntingdon county. | - | - | — | — | — | — | — |
| — Keyl. | | | | | | | | |
| SYNOD OF OHIO, 1829. | | | | | | | | |
| Rev. Steck, sen. | Greensburg, Bruschcreek, Manor, Zelnerns and Herolds, Westmoreland co. Pa. | - | - | 132 | 54 | 578 | 21 | 5 |
| — Stauch, | New Lisbon. | - | - | 109 | 29 | 426 | 10 | 5 |
| — Weigandt, | | | | 69 | 57 | 562 | 14 | 2 |
| — Huet, | Bethlehem, Zion, Liberty & Christ's ch. Trumbull Co. Good Hope, Israel & Konreichs in Columbiana Co. | - | - | 95 | — | 563 | 8 | 9 |
| — Reinhardt, | | | | | | | | |
| — Leist, | Pikaway county. | - | - | 154 | — | 502 | 16 | 9 |

[illegible]

SYNOD OF MARYLAND, 1829.

Rev. Kurtz, D. D. }
 -- Uhlhorn,
 -- D. F. Schæffer,
 -- A. Reck,
 -- B. Kurtz,
 -- J. Winter.

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| 1 | Baltimore. | - | - | - | 51 | 19 | 245 | 41 | 1 |
| | Frederick city. | - | - | - | 249 | 73 | 543 | 47 | 2 |
| | Middletown. | - | - | - | 109 | 115 | 430 | 32 | 1 |
| | Hagerstown and Funkstown. | - | - | - | 65 | 54 | 447 | 28 | 2 |
| 4 | Williamsport. | - | - | - | 61 | 31 | 330 | 17 | 1 |

Rev. D. Eyster,
— A. Seechrist,

| | | | | | | | | | |
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| 4 | Smithfield &c. | - | - | - | 25 | 38 | 178 | 3 | - |
| | Washington county. | - | - | - | | | | | - |

SYNOD OF NORTH-CAROLINA & ADJACENT STATES.

Rev. Storch,
— Shober,
— D. Scherer,
— J. Miller,
— J. Beck,
— H. Græber,
— W. Jenkins,
— Schœnberg,
— J. Grieson,
— J. Grimes,
— J. Reicherd,
— Rosenmiller,
— Artz,
— Kæmpfer,

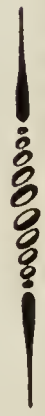
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| 4 | Salem. | - | - | - | 19 | 2 | - | - | - |
| 6 | Cabarrus. | - | - | - | 154 | 100 | 586 | 20 | - |
| 5 | Stockes. | - | - | - | 51 | 28 | 58 | 15 | - |
| 4 | Salisbury, Rowan county. | - | - | - | 33 | 20 | 220 | 16 | - |
| 4 | Lincoln. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | Tennessee. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | Illinois. | - | - | - | 10 | - | - | 3 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | 15 | - | - | 11 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Germanatown. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Orange county, | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Concord, Cabarrus county. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

SYNOD OF SOUTH-CAROLINA & ADJACENT STATES.

Rev. J. Bachman,
— S. A. Mealy,
— G. Dreher,
— M. Rauch,
— J. Moser,

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|---|---|-----|----|-----|----|---|
| 1 | Charleston. | - | - | - | 112 | 40 | 409 | 41 | - |
| 1 | Savannah, Georgia. | - | - | - | 10 | 7 | 70 | 5 | - |
| 5 | Lexington district. | - | - | - | 51 | - | 269 | 10 | - |
| 4 | do. do. | - | - | - | 5 | 2 | 150 | 9 | - |
| 3 | do. do. | - | - | - | 39 | 8 | 134 | 11 | - |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|----|-----|----|---|
| Rev. Bergmann, | 1 | Ebenezer, Georgia. | - | - | - | 13 | 4 | 50 | 4 | - |
| Metze, | | Lexington district, | - | - | - | 19 | - | - | - | - |
| Franklow, | | do. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Wingard, | 4 | do. | - | - | - | 56 | 51 | - | 9 | - |
| Schwartz, | | Charleston. | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| Scheck, | 5 | Newberry district. | - | - | - | 113 | 47 | 301 | 14 | - |
| Hope, | | Now at the Theol. Seminary, Gettysburg. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TENNESSEE CONFERENCE. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rev. N. Bonham, | | Continued. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ph. Henkle, | | Tennessee. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D. Moser, | | North-Carolina. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D. Henckel, | | do. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| G. Esterly, | | Tennessee. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Amb. Henkle, | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Miller, jr. | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Zink, | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| A. Miller, sen. | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| C. Moretz, | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |





CONSTITUTION OF SYNODS.

CHAPTER VIII. *

OF SYNODS.

Sec. I. It was found necessary and profitable in the primitive church, to have an occasional meeting of different individual churches, for the purpose of consultation and mutual encouragement, in preserving their purity and promoting their welfare.† This apostolical custom is retained in the Lutheran Church, under the name of Conference, Synod and General Synod.

II. A synod consists of all the ministers and licensed candidates, and an equal number of lay-delegates, within a certain district.

III. The number of lay-votes can never exceed that of the ordained clergymen and licentiates : and if a lay-delegate be present from a district from which there is no minister present in the Synod, he shall have a seat and the liberty of speech, but no vote.

IV. It shall be the duty of each synod, to see that the rules of government and discipline prescribed in this Formula, are observed by all the congregations and ministers within their bounds, to receive appeals from decisions of church-councils, and of Special Conferences when regularly brought before them, and review and reverse or confirm the decisions to which they refer ; to examine and decide on all charges against ministers and licentiates, that of heterodoxy alone excepted ; to form and change ministerial districts ; to attend to any business relating to their churches, which is regularly brought before them, to provide supplies for destitute congregations, and to devise and execute all suitable measures for the promotion of piety and the general prosperity of the church, not otherwise disposed of in this Formula.

V. To this end the Synod and Ministerium shall have power to cite any church-members within their bounds to appear before them ; and to endeavour to obtain other witnesses, when the case may require it.

VI. If any congregation, hitherto in connexion with a Synod, should refuse to observe the resolutions of said Synod, or the provisions of this Formula, it shall be excluded from connexion from said Synod during the time of its refusal ; nor shall any other Synod, nor any Lutheran minister or licentiate, take charge of it without special permission of the President. Provided, however, that if the charter of an incorporated congregation be at variance with any articles of this Formula, said charter shall have precedence of those articles with which it is in conflict.

VII. Any congregation may become connected with the Synod within whose bounds it is situated, by acceding to the provisions of this Formula, and making some annual contribution towards defraying the necessary expenses of said Synod. For this purpose an annual collection ought to be held in each congregation.

*As the directory for the government of individual congregations, already published, and this Constitution for Synods and that of the General Synod, are parts of one entire system of Lutheran Church government, the Chapters are numbered as a continuation of the former part.

† Acts xv, 2, 6, 22, 23—28. Acts xi, 22, 30. xxi, 17, 18. Acts vi.

VIII. At least one meeting of each Synod shall be held every year, at such time and place as may have been determined on.

IX. No minister or licentiate shall be absent from the meeting of the Synod without the most urgent necessity. In case of his absence, he shall, if possible, send to the Synod a written apology, for his absence. Voluntary ministerial engagements shall not be regarded as a sufficient excuse. Any minister or licentiate violating the provisions of this section, shall be called to account by the President at the next meeting.

X. These written apologies, as well as all other letters and papers intended for the Synod or Ministerium, ought to be addressed to the President.

XI. The minister of the place in which the Synod is held, with the church council, shall endeavour to provide for the entertainment of the ministers, candidates and lay-delegates by christian friends.

XII. All the members of the Synod shall endeavour to assemble on the evening preceeding the day appointed.

XIII. Divine worship shall be celebrated, during the meeting of the Synod, as often as may be convenient, and consistent with the business of the Synod.

XIV. Ministers in good standing in other Synods, or in any sister churches, who may happen to be present, or who appear as delegates from said bodies, may be received as advisory members, but cannot vote in any decisions of the Synod.

CHAPTER IX.

OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD.

Sec. I. The officers of each Synod shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer, who are also the officers of the Ministerium.

II. All these officers are annually chosen by ballot, from among the ordained ministers regularly belonging to the Synod, by a majority of the votes of the ministers, licentiates and lay-delegates present. The same persons shall not be eligible for more than three successive years.

PRESIDENT.

III. The President shall deliver a synodical discourse at the meeting of every synod: and he shall, in connexion with the pastor of the place, appoint the other individuals who are to preach during the session.

IV. He shall at the beginning of every Synod, make a written report of all the official business transacted and letters received by him since the last meeting, and of all the important events which have occurred relating to his Synod, and may recommend for their consideration any measures, which he may deem necessary or calculated to promote the cause of God. This report shall be laid on the table, and dealt with as with all other papers coming before the body.

V. He presides at all the meetings of the Synod and Ministerium.

VI. The President has a right to take part in the discussions as well as any other member. When the house is equally divided on any question, he has the casting

vote. In all other cases he has no suffrage, except when an election is made by ballot, and then he has not the casting vote.

VII. The President shall preserve order, not suffer more than one member to speak at a time, secure to each person liberty to speak without interruption from others, and shall prevent a speaker from deviating from the subject before the house.

VIII. The President shall take care that each subject be duly considered before a decision be made. He shall distinctly rehearse each motion, when no one has any further observations to offer, and take the votes of the house on the same.

IX. When the votes are called for, they are to be given simply by Yea and Nay, and no further observations are then admissible.

X. The President has the appointment of all committees which are not to be elected by ballot, or otherwise : and every motion for the formation of a committee shall specify in what way it is to be formed.

XI. It is an important part of his duty to give counsel to every member of the Synod when he deems it expedient, and particularly to admonish and advise every erring brother. If accusation has been lodged against any member of this body according to ch. iii. sec. v. or if he has reason to believe that any minister or licentiate is living in any material violation of the rules of this Formula, it shall be his duty to call upon the individual to relieve his character from said imputation, before the Synod or Ministerium.

XII. Should the President remove from the limits of the Synod or depart this life, then the Secretary shall succeed him, and discharge the duties of the President, until the next Synod.

SECRETARY.

XIII. The Secretary shall keep a faithful and accurate account of all the proceedings of the Synod and Ministerium ; carefully preserve all the papers, the seal &c. of the Synod subject to their direction, and shall do all the official writing of the Synod not otherwise provided for.

XIV. He shall give notice (either by circular or in the public papers, as each Synod may direct), to each minister and licentiate belonging to the Synod, of the time and place of the synodical meeting, at least six weeks previous to the time appointed.

XV. He is to keep a register of the names of all the ministers & licensed candidates, arranged according to their age in office, and also of the congregations whether vacant or not, connected with the Synod.

XVI. If the accumulation of business should render it necessary, the President may appoint an assistant Secretary, whose office shall expire at the close of the meeting of the Synod.

XVII. If in the recess of the Synod, the Secretary should remove into the bounds of another Synod, or should depart this life, the President shall require the Archives, the seal and all other property of the Synod to be delivered to him, and shall retain the charge of them until the next session of the Synod, when he shall appoint a Secretary pro tem.

XVIII. Unless the Archives are otherwise disposed of by the Synod, they shall be in the charge and custody of the Secretary. Any minister or delegate of a congregation connected with said Synod shall have free access to them ; but no part of them shall be allowed to be taken away or destroyed.

TREASURER.

XIX. The Treasurer shall take charge of all the monies belonging to the Synod, and shall keep them subject to its order. He shall keep, and present at each annual meeting, a detailed and faithful account of the state of the Treasury.

XX. Should the Treasurer, during the recess of the Synod, remove out of the bounds of the Synod, or be removed by death, the President shall have all the monies, certificates, bonds and documents belonging to the Synod, delivered into his hands, and shall have the charge of them until the next Synodical session.



CHAPTER X.

OTHER MEMBERS OF A SYNOD.

I. It is the duty of every ordained minister, licentiate and lay-delegate of every Synod, not only to observe the provisions of this Constitution himself ; but also, as far as is in his power, see that it is obeyed by all connected with it.

ORDAINED MINISTERS & LICENTIATES OR CANDIDATES.

II. It is recommended to every ordained minister and licentiate, to aid in circulating among the members of his charge, the books proposed by the Synod and General Synod for use.

III. No minister or licentiate shall interfere with the congregations of another, by preaching or performing other ministerial duties in them, except by his request or consent, if present ; nor in his absence, if he have reason to think that any evil would result to said church.

IV. Any minister or licentiate in good standing, who removes from the bounds of one Synod into those of another, shall, on application to the President, receive a certificate under his signature, of his honorable dismissal ; and such a certificate shall be required by the Synod into which he removes, when he applies for admission into it.

V. Every ordained minister has the right to leave his charge & remove to another whenever he believes it his duty to do so ; yet he must give the President timely notice of his intended removal.

VI. A licensed candidate shall have liberty to visit vacant congregations, either upon receiving an invitation from them, or upon the advice of the Synod or President.

VII. After a licentiate has a stated charge he shall be restricted to it, and shall not resign it without the consent of the Ministerium, or, in its recess, of the President.

VIII. A licentiate has power to perform all the ministerial functions during the time specified in his license.

IX. In addition to the obligations of ministers specified ch. iii. sec. 1. it is the duty of licentiates particularly to devote all their leisure time to their personal improvement and knowledge and grace, to receive counsel from the President, and to apply to him for advice in cases of difficulty.

X. Every licentiate must keep a general journal of his ministerial acts, which, with a few sermons of his own composition, he must deliver, or send annually for the inspection of the Ministerium.

LAY-DELEGATES.

XI. Each lay-delegate, entitled to a seat by this Constitution, shall have equal rights with the ministers in all business belonging to the Synod; that is, may take part in the debates, offer resolutions and vote on all Synodical questions.

CHAPTER XI.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

It is recommended, that the transactions of the Synod be conducted as follows :

I. At the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall assemble, and if four ordained ministers and two lay-delegates be present, they shall constitute a quorum.

II. The President shall open the first session by a prayer, after the brethren have unitedly sung an hymn. And every session of the Synod and Ministerium shall be opened and closed with prayer. In the absence of the President, the first prayer shall be made by the Secretary, and if he also be absent by one of the elder minister present.

III. After prayer the Secretary shall call the names of all the ordained ministers and licentiates belonging to the Synod, and note the absentees.

IV. The lay-delegates shall then exhibit the certificates of their appointment, and their names be registered by the Secretary as members of the Synod.

V. The President shall make his report (Chap. IX. §. IV.) as the last official act of his office and then inform the members, that

VI. The election of officers for the ensuing year is now to be attended to.

VII. Admission of delegates or ministers from other ecclesiastical bodies: according to Chap. VIII, §. XIV.

VIII. The minutes of the last Synod may be read.

IX. All papers intended for the Synod or Ministerium are to be handed in, and verbal notice may be given of any important business intended to be brought before the Synod.

X. The Secretary shall then number the papers as arranged by the President, after which they shall be taken up and discussed before the whole house in numerical order, or be first referred to committees, as the house may direct. The reports of Committees may be heard and acted on at any time, and the intervals filled up by the succeeding items.

XI. Each minister shall be called on by the Secretary for the record of persons baptised and confirmed, as well as of the regular communing members belonging to his churches (Chap. iv. §. xi.) ; as also of the number of schools.

XII. The Treasurer's account shall be heard.

XIII. The number of vacant congregations be inquired into, and provision made for them.

XIV. Promiscuous business.

XV. Election of delegates to the General Synod, or to other ecclesiastical bodies, and of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

XVI. Choice of the time and place for the next meeting of Synod.

XVII. Dissolution of the Synod, and annunciation of the time of the ministerial session.

XVIII. Should the President or Secretary be absent at the proper time for opening a session, the members present may elect others pro tempore.

CHAPTER XII.

PROCESS AGAINST A MINISTER.

I. As the honour and success of the gospel depend very much on the character of its ministers, every Synod ought to guard with the utmost care and impartiality the conduct of its members.

II. All christians should be very cautious in giving credit or circulation to an ill report of any man, and especially of a minister of the gospel ; if any man knows a minister to be guilty of a private censurable fault, he should warn him in private. If this prove fruitless, he should apply to the church-council, who shall proceed as specified in Chap. iii, §. 5.

III. If accusation be lodged according to Chap. iii, §. 5. with the President within four months of the time of the next Synodical meeting, he shall defer the matter to said meeting ; yet if the charge be one of drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental errors in doctrine, or a higher crime, he shall immediately direct the accused to suspend all his ministerial duties until his case is decided. If such accusation is lodged with the President at an earlier date, he shall if the charge be one of drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental error in doctrine or higher crime, immediately give notice to all the members of the Conference district to which the accused belongs, to meet without delay at a suitable place, and institute a formal investigation of the case, according to the principles of this Formula. The Chairman of said Conference district shall immediately fix the time and place of the meeting, and give at least fifteen days notice of the same to each minister in the district, and also to the parties concerned.

IV. If the Synod is not divided into Conference Districts the President shall appoint a Committee of three ordained ministers, shall fix the time and place of their meeting and give all the notices as above required of the Chairman of the Conference district.

V. Any three members of the Conference or of the Committee above named, shall have power to proceed and hold a fair and impartial investigation of the case, and

to take all such measures as may be just and necessary to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused.

VI. If the accused confess, and the matter be base and flagitious, such as drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental error in doctrine, or a higher crime, however penitent he may be, he must immediately be suspended from the exercise of his office, and if thought expedient a time be appointed for him publicly to confess to the congregation and the world his guilt and penitance.

VII. If a minister, accused of atrocious crimes, being duly notified refuses to attend the investigation, he shall still be immediately suspended from office.

VIII. If the accused deny the charge, and yet on examination of the evidence is found guilty; the Conference or Committee shall nevertheless proceed to pass sentence on him.

IX. The highest punishment which can be inflicted by a Special Conference or Committee appointed as above specified, is suspension from clerical functions; and this sentence is to be reported to the next meeting of the Synod and remains in force until reversed by the Synod or Ministerium as the case may be.

X. Any minister intending to appeal from the decision of a Conference or Committee, shall give notice of it to his accusers within three weeks of the time when the decision was made; that both parties may be prepared for a new trial.

XI. Special Conferences not specially convened for the purpose, may attend to any charges of importance against a minister within their bounds, if all the parties concerned are prepared and willing to proceed.

XII. If at any time, accusation be lodged with the President, according to chapter III. § 5. for a less crime than those above specified § III., he shall take no other steps in the case than to write a letter to the accused and accusers, exhorting them to mutual forbearance and referring them to the next Synod.

XIII. If accusation against a minister be made immediately to the Synod, and the Synod believe themselves in possession of all the evidence necessary to a just decision, the case may be immediately examined and sentence passed. But if the necessary evidence be not before them, and the crime be such as is specified in § III. they shall appoint a meeting of the Conference to which the accused belongs, or, if there be no Conference district, of a Committee who shall proceed as above specified.

XIV. If a minister be found guilty of drunkenness, fundamental heresy, lewdness or higher crimes, his sentence of suspension shall not be removed until after some time of penitent, humble and edifying conduct. And he cannot be restored by any judicatory than the Synod, or by the Ministerium, if his case was one of fundamental heresy.

XV. If the common report of a minister's guilt of any of the charges above specified, be such as seriously to injure the cause of religion, and his own churches do not proceed against him, it shall be the duty of any other minister or layman, having obtained two other signatures of credible men, to report the case to the President.

CHAPTER XIII.

VACANT CONGREGATIONS.

I. Vacant congregations which cannot be immediately supplied with a minister, are advised to assemble on the Lords-day, to select some member of the church, of suitable capacities and character, to conduct the exercises, and engage in the worship of God, as recommended in Chap. VII. § 1.

II. It is also recommended, that at these meetings, a portion of the Scriptures, of the prayers contained in the Liturgy, or some select sermon, such as are approved by the President of the Synod, be read.

CHAPTER XIV.

OF MISSIONS.

As the blessed Saviour left to his followers the command : "Go ye and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, * ; the Synods shall regard it as a sacred duty to adopt, from time to time, such measures as they may deem best calculated to execute this solemn injunction.

CHAPTER XV.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND DIRECTORS.

The election of delegates to the General Synod and of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, shall always be held by ballot, and a licensed candidate shall not be eligible to either of these offices.

CHAPTER XVI.

SPECIAL CONFERENCES.

I. It is earnestly recommended that each Synod divide itself into two or more districts, for the purpose of holding Special Conferences ; which may be held either on a week-day or sabbath.

II. It is desirable, where ministers do not live too far apart, that at least two Conferences should be held annually in each district. They ought to last two days, and the chief business to be performed at them is to awaken and convert sinners, and to edify believers by close practical preaching of the gospel.

III. The state of religion in the churches of the district ought to be enquired into, and at least an hour be spent by the Conference alone in conversation on subjects relating to pastoral experience.

IV. These districts ought to contain between five and ten ministers, and when the number becomes greater, a new district ought to be formed.

F. These Conferences ought to be held alternately, in some congregation of each minister and licentiate belonging to the district.

VI. Special Conferences may examine into any business of congregations, which is regularly referred to them, and give their advice; but no Conference, shall, under any pretext whatever, perform any business connected with the licensure or ordination of candidates for the ministry.

VII. Lay-delegates may also be sent to these Conferences, under the same regulations as to Synods, if it is thought advisable by the Synod.

CHAPTER XVII.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

I. The clergy shall then hold a meeting consisting exclusively of Scripture elders, that is, preachers, * for the purpose of attending to those duties which Christ and his apostles enjoined upon them alone, viz, Examination, Licensure and Ordination of candidates for the ministry. This meeting is called the Ministerium or Presbytery, † by which, in Scripture is meant ministers alone.

II. Licensed candidates may be present at the Ministerial meeting, unless requested to withdraw, and may take part in the discussions but have no vote.

III. The Ministerium shall also be the proper body, by whom all charges of heresy against a minister, are to be examined and decided: as also all appeals from the decision of a church-council on a charge of heresy against a lay-man, or from the decision of a Special Conference on a similar charge against a minister.

IV. When ordained ministers of other religious denominations, make application for admission into connexion with a Synod, the Ministerium shall be the body to decide on the case.

V. A majority of two thirds of the ordained ministers shall be required, either for the licensure of an applicant as well as the renewal of his license, or the ordination of a licensed candidate, or the admission of an ordained minister of another denomination.

VI. No minister or licentiate, coming from a Foreign Country, shall be received as a member of any Synod, until after a residence of two years in this country and unexceptionable deportment during that time. Excepting only, that if an ordained minister comes well recommended for piety & learning, by a Consistorium, or a number of individuals, known to the Ministerium as orthodox and evangelical, and if the Ministerium believe they can safely confide in the testimonials, they may receive him for twelve month, after which the vote for his permanent reception as a regular member shall be taken, and the case decided according to § v.

VII. All business not specifically entrusted to the Ministerium in this Formula, shall belong to the Synod.

VIII. The order of business in the Ministerium may be as follows:

1. After the session has been opened with prayer, the President shall communicate any business which he may have to report or propose.

* Acts xx, 17. 28.

† 1 Tim. iv, 14.

2. The licentiates shall hand in their licenses, sermons, and journals, which ought if possible to be read by the licentiate before the whole body. If want of time renders this inconvenient, Committees ought then to be appointed to examine and report on them.
3. Applicants for licensure are examined.
4. After the examination of the applicants and of the sermons and journals of licentiates, the applicants and licentiates may be desired to withdraw, and the question of their licensure and renewal of license or ordination, be discussed and decided.
5. The licensure and ordination may be performed either in the Ministerium, or at an appointed hour, before a promiscuous assembly.
6. Promiscuous matters relative to Ministerial business may then be attended to.
7. Some time shall then be spent in conversation on pastoral experience.
8. The session closed as directed Ch. XI, §. 2.

CHAPTER XVIII.

EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE OF CANDIDATES.

I. The examination shall be conducted by an Examining Committee of two or more ordained ministers, appointed for the purpose at the meeting of the previous year, or by a Committee appointed at the time. As these examinations may be highly interesting and useful to the whole Ministerium, and will be more faithfully performed if public, it is earnestly recommended that they be performed before the whole body.

II. After the examination by the Committee is ended, every member of the Ministerium has the right to ask the applicant any additional questions.

III. The examination shall embrace at least the following subjects : viz. Personal piety and the motives of the applicant for seeking the holy office, the Greek and Hebrew Scriptures, the Evidences of Christianity, Natural and Revealed Theology, Church History, Pastoral Theology, the rules of Sermonizing, and Church Government.

IV. No Ministerium, shall, in any case whatever, license an individual whom they do not believe to be hopefully pious. Nor shall any applicant, extraordinary cases excepted, be licensed, whom the Ministerium do not find possessed of a competent acquaintance with the subjects named in § iii. the Hebrew language alone excepted.

V. The *Ceremony of Licensure* shall be performed as follows : viz. after an address from the President as prescribed in the Liturgy, he shall read the duties and privileges of licentiates in Ch. x, § vi.—§ x. and then propose to him the following questions :

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?*
2. Do you believe that the fundamental doctrines of the word of God are taught

* 2 Tim. iii, 16. Eph. ii, 20.

in a manner substantially correct in the doctrinal articles of the Augsburg Confession? *

3. Do you promise, by the aid of God, faithfully to perform all the duties enjoined on you in this Formula, and to submit yourself to its rules of Government and Discipline, so long as you remain a member of a Lutheran Synod? †

VI. These questions being answered in the affirmative, the President offers up a suitable prayer, delivers him his license, and concludes with a short address as directed in the Liturgy.

VII. All licenses shall extend to the time of the next annual meeting of the Ministerium, and shall be renewed as a matter of course, whether the licentiate be present or not, unless satisfactory reasons are known to the Ministerium, which render a renewal inexpedient. And if for any reason, no meeting be held at the appointed time, the licenses granted by said Ministerium shall remain in force, until revoked at a subsequent meeting.

VIII. If a licentiate after some time of probation, does in the judgement of the Ministerium, prove himself unqualified for the duties of the ministry, his license shall be withdrawn.

CHAPTER XIX.

ORDINATION.

I. Whenever the Ministerium has decided that an individual shall be ordained, the ceremony may be performed, either at the time by the assembled Ministerium, or if preferred, in the church by which he has been called, by the Special Conference, or by a Committee appointed for the purpose by the President.

II. The Ceremony of ordination, wherever performed, shall be as follows: viz.

1. A sermon shall be preached by a person previously appointed, on the nature, duties & responsibilities of the ministerial office.

2. The President of the Ministerium, or the Chairman of the Conference or Committee, shall then, after a short address, such as is contained in the Liturgy, propose to the candidate the following questions:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God, & the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

2. Do you believe that the fundamental doctrines of the word of God, are taught in a manner substantially correct, in the doctrinal articles of the Augsb. Confession?

3. Do you promise, by the aid of God, faithfully to perform all the duties enjoined on you in this Formula, and to submit yourself to its rules of Government and Discipline, so long as you remain a member of any Luth. Synod?

4. Do you believe that in seeking the ministerial office you are influenced by a sincere love to God your Saviour, and desire to promote his glory in the welfare of men.

5. Do you promise faithfully and zealously to preach the truths of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as contained in the Holy Scriptures?

* 2 Tim. i, 13.

† 2 Pet. v, 5.

3. These questions being answered in the affirmative, the candidate shall kneel down, when the President or presiding minister, shall ordain him after the apostolic example by prayer † and the laying on of the hands of the ministry ‡ i. e. presbytery. The candidate shall then rise, and the officiating minister, and after him the ordained ministers present shall take him by the right hand and welcome him to take part in the ministry with them. § (The ceremonies may then be concluded by the benediction. But if the ordination was performed in a church to which he is called, the presiding minister shall proceed without any interruption with the ceremonies of installation.)

CHAPTER XX.

INSTALLATION.

I. He shall then propose to the minister just ordained, this question : viz. Are you willing to take charge of this congregation, and do you promise, by the grace of God, faithfully to discharge the duties of a christian pastor to them.

II. This question being answered in the affirmative, the President shall ask the congregation:

Do you desire to receive ——— as the regular pastor of your church (or churches,) to which you have given him a call? And do you promise faithfully to discharge towards him the duties, which a christian congregation owe to their pastor?

These questions being answered in the affirmative. The presiding minister shall solemnly pronounce the individual installed to be the regular pastor of said charge; and conclude with the benediction.

III. If a minister already ordained, is to be installed, the ceremony of Installation shall be preceded by a sermon on the relation between a minister and the people of his charge, or on some other suitable subject, by a person previously appointed. The minister shall then be formally installed, according to § I. II. after which, a charge may be delivered by a minister previously appointed, to the pastor and his people on their respective duties, and the whole be closed with the benediction.

P. S. As different Synods might differ in opinion relative to matters of a minor nature, so many particulars only as are necessary to general uniformity, and harmony of operation among the churches, were introduced into this Formula. Each Synod adopting this Constitution, has the power to form such by-laws, as may seem proper to itself.

†Acts xiii, 2. 3. ‡1Tim. iv, 14. §Acts i, 25.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
General Synod
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
IN THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA.

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Translated from the original German copy.
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JESUS CHRIST, the Supreme Head of His Church, having prescribed no entire specific directory for government & discipline, & every section of his church being left at full liberty to make such regulations to that effect, as may be most adapted to its situation and circumstances, therefore—Relying upon God our Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God, for the promotion of the practice of brotherly love, to the furtherance of Christian concord, to the firm establishment and continuance of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace—We, the Deputies of the “German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania and the neighbouring States,” of the “German and English Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the State of North Carolina and the bordering States,” of the “Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium in the State of New-York, and the neighbouring States and Countries,” and of the “Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland and Virginia, &c.” for ourselves and our successors, do adopt the following fundamental articles : viz.

ARTICLE I.

The Name, Style and Title of this Convention shall be : “*The Evangelical Lutheran General Synod of the United States of North America.*”

ARTICLE II.

This General Synod shall consist of the Deputies from the several Evangelical Luth. Synodical Conventions in the United States, who may join themselves thereunto, & be duly acknowledged as members thereof, in the following ratio, namely :

Every Synodal body, or Synod (whether of Ministers only, or of Ministers and Lay Deputies together) containing six Ministers, may send one ; if it contain fourteen, two ; if twenty-five, three ; if forty, four ; if sixty, five ; and if it contain eighty-six Ministers or upwards, six Deputies of the rank of ordained Ministers and an equal number of Lay Deputies.

Each Deputy, appearing in the General Synod according to this ratio, shall, except as is hereinafter provided, enjoy an equal right and vote with all others. Every Synod may choose its Deputies in such a way and manner as to them may seem proper ; and shall pay the travelling expences of the same to and from the General Synod, until the General Synod shall have established for itself a treasury from which the future expences may be discharged.

ARTICLE III.

The business of the General Synod shall be as follows, namely :

SECTION I. The General Synod shall examine the Proceedings of the several Synods and Ministeriums belonging to this association, in order that they may obtain some knowledge of the existing state and condition of the Church. The several Synods, therefore, shall transmit as many copies of their proceedings to the General Synod, as there shall be members contained in the General Synod.

SECTION II. With regard to all *Books* and *Writings* proposed for public use in the church, the General Synod shall act as a joint committee of the special Synods and Ministeriums, after the following manner: viz.

1. The General Synod shall examine all books and writings, such as catechisms, forms of liturgy, collections of hymns, or confessions of faith, proposed by the special Synods for public use, and give their well considered advice, counsel or opinion concerning the same. No Synod, therefore, and no Ministerium, standing in connexion with this General Synod, shall set forth any new book or writing of the kind above mentioned, for public use in the church, without having previously transmitted a full and complete copy thereof to the General Synod, for the purpose of receiving their said advice, counsel or opinion.

2. Whenever the General Synod shall deem it proper or necessary, they may propose to the special Synods or Ministeriums, new books or writings of the kind mentioned above, for general or special, public use. Every proposal of the kind, the several or respective Synods and Ministeriums shall duly consider, and if they, or any one of them, shall be of opinion, that the said book or books, writing or writings, will not conduce to the end proposed, then, and in such a case, it is hoped, that the reasons of such opinion will be transmitted to the next convention of the General Synod, in order that the same may be entered on their journal.

3. But no General Synod can be allowed to possess, or arrogate unto itself, "the power of *prescribing* among us *uniform ceremonies of religion* for every part of the Church;" or to introduce such alterations in matters appertaining to the faith, or to the mode of publishing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, (the Son of God, and ground of our faith and hope) as might in any way tend to burden the consciences of the brethren in Christ

SECTION III. If hereafter twenty-five ministers, dwelling together, within a certain marked boundary, fifteen of whom, being ordained ministers, shall apply to the General Synod for permission to create within themselves a Special Ministerium, and the Synod or Ministerium to which they have previously belonged, do not, upon due notice given of their intention so to apply, make any serious or important objection, then the General Synod shall have power to grant the permission; and if within the bounds of a whole state no special Synod or Ministerium shall yet have existed, and six ordained ministers residing therein shall apply for permission to create within themselves a special Ministerium, the General Synod shall authorize the establishment of a new Synod and Ministerium within the said state. But until the permission or authority be thus formally conceded, no Deputies of a new Synod or Ministerium shall be acknowledged to have a seat and vote in the General Synod.

SECTION IV. With regard to the grades in the Ministry, the General Synod may give to the several Ministeriums well considered advice, wherein the circumstances of time, place and condition must be duly contemplated, and a beneficial uniformity, and actual equality, of rank among the several ministers, must, as much as possible, be had in view. The General Synod shall also advise such rules and regulations among the several Synods and Ministeriums, as may prevent unpleasant and unfriendly collisions, that might otherwise arise out of any differences of grades existing among them, or from any whatever other possible causes.

SECTION V. The General Synod shall not be looked upon as a Tribunal of Appeal; it may, however, be employed in the following cases and after the following manner:

1. The General Synod may give advice or opinion, when complaints shall be brought before them, by whole Synods, Ministeriums, Congregations, or individual Ministers, concerning doctrine or discipline. They shall however be extremely careful, that the consciences of the Ministers of the Gospel be not burdened with human inventions, laws or devices, and that no one be oppressed by reason of differences of opinion on nonfundamental doctrines.

2. If Parties, differing in matters of doctrine and discipline, refer the cause of difference, in a brotherly manner, to the General Synod, they shall institute a close and exact scrutiny and examination thereof, and give their opinion on the subject of difference, according to their best insight of right, equity, brotherly love & truth.

3. If difference between Synods be referred, the votes thereon shall be taken by Synods, and the referring Synods shall have no vote.

SECTION VI. The General Synod may devise plans for seminaries of education & missionary institutions, as well as for the aid of poor ministers, and the widows & orphans of poor ministers, & endeavour, with the help of God, to carry them into effect.

SECTION VII. The General Synod may also institute and create a treasury for the effectual advancement of its purposes.

SECTION VIII. The General Synod shall apply all their powers, their prayers and their means, toward the prevention of schisms among us, to be sedulously and incessantly regardful of the circumstances of the times, and of every casual rise & progress of unity of sentiment among Christians in general, in order that the blessed opportunities to promote concord and unity, and the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom, may not pass by neglected and unavailing.

ARTICLE IV.

The General synod shall choose, from among their own number, a president & a secretary; and from among their own number, or elsewhere, as soon as it may be necessary, a treasurer. They shall continue in office until the next succeeding convention. The same person is at all times re-eligible as secretary or treasurer; but no one may be elected president more than two conventions in succession, and the same person cannot thereafter be elected for the two successively following conventions.

SECTION I. The president shall act as chairman of the Convention. He may make motions, give his opinion and vote like every other member. With the consent and concurrence of the minister of the place where the convention is held, he shall appoint the several preachers during the convention. He shall subscribe all letters, written advices, resolutions, and the proceedings of the Synod. In extraordinary cases, & by request of any one of the acknowledged Synods, made known to him in the form of a Synodical or Ministerial resolution, he may call together special conventions of the General Synod. In case the business of the secretary become too burdensome for one person to execute, he shall, with the concurrence of the Secretary, appoint an assistant Secretary, and make known to him what portion of the labours he ought to undertake.

SECTION II. The Secretary shall keep a journal of the proceedings, write, attest, and take care of all the documents and writings, make known the time and place of the convention, by the medium of the public prints, at least three months beforehand, and, in the special or extraordinary cases mentioned in the foregoing section, he shall give written notice thereof to each of the special Synods or Ministeriums.

SECTION III. If the President or Secretary, in the intermediate time between the conventions, depart this life, resign his office, or become incapable of executing the same, the next in office shall take his place and perform his duties ; if it be the treasurer, then the president shall appoint another treasurer *ad interim* in his stead.

SECTION IV. The treasurer shall keep account of the receipts and expenditures of the Synod. He shall give receipts for all monies put into his hands. He shall not pay any money out of his hands but by order of the president, attested by the secretary, in pursuance of a resolution of the Synod to that effect. At every convention of the Synod he shall render account.

ARTICLE V.

The course of business shall be conducted as follows : viz.

1. The deputies shall give personal notice of their arrival to the minister of the place, or if the congregation be vacant of a minister, to any other person appointed by the congregation for the purpose, who shall make known to them their place of residence and the place where the sessions shall be held.

2. At nine o'clock in the forenoon of the first week-day of the time of convocation, the sessions shall begin and be opened with prayer.

3. The President elected by the former convention shall act as chairman till another President be chosen. In case of his absence, the persons present may, on motion made and seconded, appoint another in his stead.

4. The members shall give in to the chairman their attestations or certificates. For all the deputies from any one particular synod one certificate signed by the president and attested by the secretary of that synod, shall be deemed sufficient, and all the members of the same synod shall sit together.

5. If a majority of the deputies, of a majority of the Synods attached to the General Synod, be present, the business shall go on. If this proportion be lacking, the members present may from time to time postpone the sessions of the convention.

6. The president, secretary & treasurer shall be elected by ballot, on the first day of the sessions, and so soon as the members shall have given in their certificates.

7. The proceedings of the former convention shall be read by the secretary.

8. Hereupon follow the several portions of business according to Article 3d, section for section.

9. Now other mixed motions may be made, concerning the subjects already discussed, or any other matters that may occur.

10. In conclusion, the General Synod shall appoint, by ballot, the time and place of the next convention, observing at all times, however, that one convention at least, be held every three years.

ARTICLE VI.

The General Synod may make whatever by-laws they may deem necessary, provided only, that the said by-laws do not contradict the spirit of the constitution.

ARTICLE VII.

No alterations of this constitution may be made except by the consent of two-thirds of the Synods attached to this convention ; notice of the intended alteration having been given to the said Synods at least two years previous to the final adoption thereof.

Signed October 24th, in the year of our Lord 1820.

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| J. G. Schmucker, | } of Pennsylvania. | Ph. F. Mayer, | } Of New York. |
| Geo. Lochman. | | F. C. Schaeffer, | |
| Christian Endress. | | Gottl. Schober, | } Of North Carolina. |
| F. W. Geissenhauer, | | Peter Schmucker, | |
| H. A. Muhlenberg, | | Daniel Kurtz, | } Of Maryland. |
| Chr. Kunkel. | | D. F. Schaeffer, | |
| Wm. Hensei. | Geo. Schryock, | | |
| Peter Stichter, | | | |

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SIXTH GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
EVAN. LUTH. CHURCH
IN THE
United States.

CONVENED AT FREDERICK, Md.,

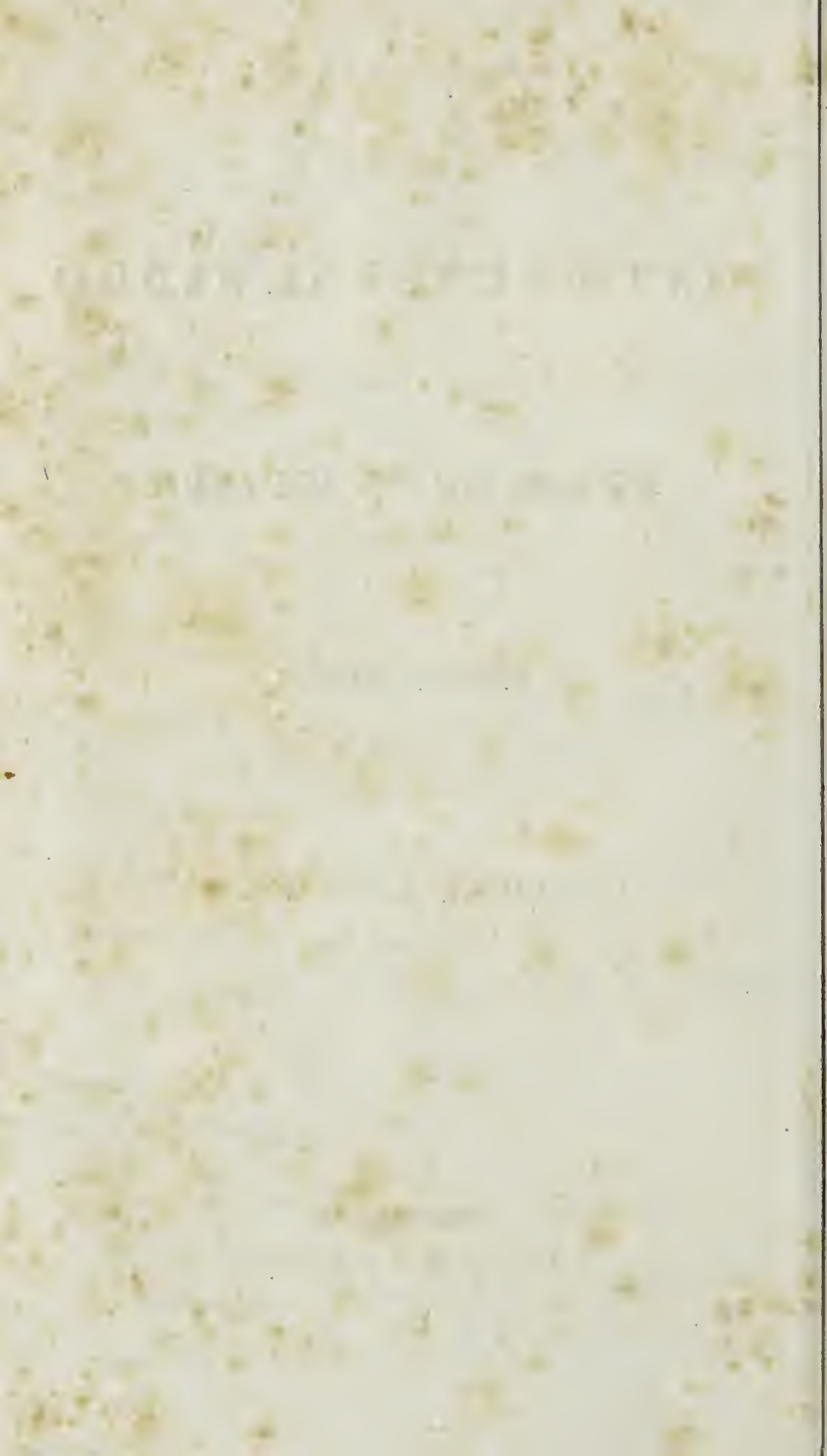
OCT. & NOV. 1831.

SCHONHARIE.

PRINTED BY A. A. KEYSER

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1831.

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SIXTH SESSION
OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE

Evan. Luth. Church in the U. States.

THE clerical and lay representatives from the several District Synods composing this body, assembled at Frederick, Md., on Saturday, Oct. 29, 1831. In the evening, religious exercises were performed in the Evan. Luth. Church, in which several of the clerical brethren present, participated.

On Sunday morning, Rev. J. G. MORRIS, from Baltimore, delivered a discourse in the Evan. Luth. Church, from Amos, vi. 1. After which, the Synod united with the congregation in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. In the afternoon, Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS, from the Seminary at Gettysburgh, preached in the German language, from Rom. viii. 16, 17. And in the evening, another discourse was delivered, by the Rev. G. A. LINTNER, of Schoharie, N. Y., from 1 John, v. 10. Divine service was also performed in the morning, in the Presbyterian Church, by Rev. J. N. HOFFMAN, of Taneytown, Md., who addressed the congregation from John v. 25. And in the afternoon, Rev. A. LOCHMAN, from Harrisburgh, Pa., delivered a discourse at the same place, from 1 Thess. v. 25.

EVAN. LUTH. CHURCH, Frederick, Oct. 31, 1831.

MONDAY, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Synod was opened with prayer by Rev. Doct. KURTZ, of Baltimore.

From the minutes of the District Synods, and other credentials, it appeared that the following persons were entitled to seats as members of the General Synod, viz :

From the Synod of North Carolina.

Rev. W. ARTZ,
Mr. T. I. MYERS,

Rev. H. GRAEBER, Alternate.

Synod of Maryland and Virginia.

Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER,

L. MEDTART, Esq.

" A. RECK,

H. NIXENDORF, Esq.

" J. N. HOFFMAN,

Synod of West Pennsylvania.

Rev. Doct. SCHMUCKER, P. BERLIN, Esq.

" " HAZELIUS,

Rev. Prof. S. S. SCHMUCKER, } Alter-

" I. RUTHRAUF,

" F. HEYER,

} nates.

Hartwick Synod of New-York.

Rev. G. A. LINTNER,

W. C. BOUCK, Esq.

The Synod then proceeded to the election of officers, and on canvassing the votes, it appeared that the following brethren were duly elected, viz :

Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER, President.

" G. A. LINTNER, Secretary.

C. A. BARNITZ, Esq., Treasurer.

Rev. Doct. KURTZ, Rev. J. G. MORRIS and Rev. J. RECK, of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia, and Rev. A. LOCHMAN, of the Synod of East Pennsylvania, appeared, and were admitted as advisory members.

The PRESIDENT informed the Synod, that pursuant to the request of the officers of several District Synods, and other brethren, the place of meeting of this Body was changed from Winchester, Va., to Frederick, Md., which was approved by the Synod.

The minutes of the several District Synods were then presented by the PRESIDENT, and referred to the following committees, to consider and report thereon, viz :

Minutes of the Synod of New-York—Rev. Prof. Schmucker and L. Medtart, Esq. Synod of East Pennsylvania—Rev. A. Lochman and G. A. Lintner. Synod of West Pennsylvania—Rev. A. Reck and H. Nixendorf, Esq. Synod of North Carolina—Rev. J. Reck and L. Medtart, Esq. Synod of Ohio—Rev. Docts. Kurtz and Hazelius. Synod of Maryland and Virginia—Rev. J. N. Hoffman and Rev. J. G. Morris. Synod of South Carolina—Rev. F. Heyer and J. N. Hoffman. Hartwick Synod in New-York—Rev. J. Reck and H. Nixendorf, Esq.

A letter from Rev. Mr. BOETCHER, of Prussia, was presented by Rev. Doct. KURTZ, which was read, and referred to Rev. Docts. Kurtz and Hazelius.

The Synod then adjourned, to meet again at 2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Rev. J. RECK.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. F. HEYER delivered a discourse in the church, from John xiv. 2.

MONDAY, 2 o'clock P. M.

The Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. J. RECK.

Rev. J. N. HOFFMAN, from the committee appointed to examine the proceedings of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia, reported, that in the minutes of 1830, they found nothing relative to the General Synod, excepting the election of two clerical and two lay representatives to this Synod. From the minutes of 1831, they perceived that an additional delegate to the General Synod was chosen by this body, and that two alternate lay delegates were also appointed. At this meeting of the Synod, it was also recommended to the General Synod, to undertake the publication of an abridged translation of "*Arndts Wahres Christenthum*." The committee further stated in their report, that the churches in connexion with this Body, were increasing in numbers and vital godliness—that the Sabbath schools, prayer meetings and district conferences were attended with the most signal blessings to many souls—and that the prospects of the church in general, within the bounds of the Synod, were very encouraging. At the ministerial meeting, two licensed candidates were ordained, and one student of Divinity was licensed. The greatest harmony and love prevailed during the meeting, and the brethren separated with the joyful assurance that the Great Head of the Church had blessed their labors.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. Mr. WACHTER, from the Synod of Maryland and Virginia, appeared, and was admitted as an advisory member.

Rev. Prof. SCHMUCKER, from the committee to superintend the printing, sale, &c. of the *Hymn Book* published by the General Synod, reported, that *four* editions of the work, one of 2,000, and the others averaging 1,000 copies each, were already sold; that the *fifth* edition had just left the press; but as orders were already received for the whole edition, a *sixth* edition of 1,500 copies would be issued this fall. The report further stated, that the debt incurred for the stereotype plates, together with the interest for several years, was discharged; that the amount due for the *Hymn Book*,

was \$524.97 ; and that there were in the hands of the committee, \$250, subject to the order of the Synod.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

On motion of Rev. Mr. MORRIS, it was

Resolved, That the Hymn Book committee be directed to confer with a printer in Baltimore, and contract with him for publishing an edition of 1,500 copies of our *Hymn Book*, in large type, on the best possible terms.

Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS, from the committee to whom was referred the letter from Rev. Mr. BOETCHER, reported, that they had examined said letter, and found that it contained a request to receive information from this Body, which was most proper to be communicated by the President.

Resolved, That the Rev. PRESIDENT be requested to answer Rev. Mr. BOETCHER's letter, and that he communicate to him such information as he may deem proper, in relation to the subjects embraced in his letter.

Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS, from the committee appointed to examine the proceedings of the Synod of Ohio, reported, that this Synod, at its last annual meeting, was divided into two District Synods, which are to meet for two successive years within their respective districts. Every third year, a General Synod is to be held, where the members of both districts are to convene, and ordinations to be performed. The District Synods are to have separate treasuries ; but to pay one half of their funds to the General Synod. The District Synods shall have power to license candidates and catechets. A board of directors was also appointed by the Synod, to make arrangements for a Theological Seminary—such as determining its location—forming a constitution for its government, and collecting funds for its support. The parochial reports, which are very imperfect, include 128 congregations, 2,172 baptisms, 720 confirmations, and 8,388 communicants.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. Mr. HEYER, from the committee appointed to examine the proceedings of the Synod of South Carolina, reported, that from the minutes of 1830, it appears that the Synod consists of twelve ministers, and that twenty-six congregations were represented at the last meeting. The parochial reports are as follows : Baptisms, 376 ; confirmations, 145 ; communicants, 1,452 ; Sunday schools, 12 ; scholars, 427 ; teachers, 48. The committee stated, also, in their report, that this Synod has recently established a Theological Se-

ministry, and that there are several benevolent societies and religious associations in connexion with the congregations within its bounds, which manifest great zeal and activity in the cause. At the last meeting of the Synod, measures were adopted for supplying a number of vacant congregations with the means of grace ; four candidates were ordained, and provision was made for educating indigent young men, who are desirous of devoting themselves to the work of the ministry.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

The Synod then adjourned, to meet to-morrow, at 9 o'clock A. M. Prayer by Rev. A. RECK.

TUESDAY, November 1, 9 o'clock A. M.

Synod met according to adjournment. Prayer by the PRESIDENT.

Rev. L. EICHELBERGER, from the Synod of Maryland and Virginia, appeared, and was received as an advisory member.

Rev. Prof. SCHMUCKER, offered the following preamble and resolutions :

Whereas, this Body has been solicited by several of the Synods connected with it, to encourage the publication of such works as are calculated to meet the practical wants of our church members, to correct the erroneous views of our doctrines and discipline, prevailing in some sections of our country, and to disseminate, as far as possible, the pure and salutary doctrines of the Lutheran Church ; therefore

Resolved, That this Synod will cheerfully encourage, by its sanction, the publication of the following works :

1. The LUTHERAN MANUAL, to contain the doctrinal articles of the Augsburg Confession, with brief notes ; the entire system of church government, as published by the General Synod ; and a very brief sketch of the history of the Lutheran Church, from its origin to the present time.

2. A similar work, in the German language.

3. The LUTHERAN PREACHER, to contain a series of sermons on the prominent articles of practical Theology.

4. A translation of ARNDT'S TRUE CHRISTIANITY, as abridged by Vetterson.

5. The LUTHERAN PANOPLIST, or Controversial Tracts.

6. A LITURGY, in the English language, having reference to the works of this kind now used in different parts of our Church.

Resolved, That the General Synod elect, by ballot, fifteen divines of the Lutheran Church, to prepare these works, and to be called the *Editing Committee*.

Resolved, That a committee of five clergymen be appointed, to be called the *Book Committee*, to delineate more minutely the plan of these works, and distribute the editorial labor among the brethren elected by this Body, as much reference as possible being had to the predilection of the individuals themselves.

Resolved, That whenever any brother has completed the work which he has undertaken, he shall transmit it to the Book Committee, who shall carefully examine it. If a majority of the committee shall judge the work to be well executed, they shall furnish the author with a certificate, authorising him to publish it under the sanction of the General Synod.

Resolved, That in those cases in which the authorship of a work is divided between several brethren, those brethren shall confer together, and make arrangements for its publication, excepting the *Lutheran Preacher*, which shall be published by the Book Committee, and the *Liturgy*, which is to be added to the Hymn Book to be published by the Synod.

The above preamble and resolutions having been separately considered, and amended, were unanimously adopted.

On motion of L. MEDTART, Esq., it was

Resolved, That the retail price of the Hymn Book, in large type, with the addition of the Liturgy to be published by the Synod, be fixed at \$1.25.

Rev. J. RECK, from the committee appointed to examine the minutes of the Hartwick Synod of New-York, reported, that this Synod held its first meeting at Johnstown, N. Y., on the last Saturday in September 1831, at which eleven ministers and ten lay representatives from congregations, were present. A resolution was unanimously adopted at this meeting, to enter into connexion with the General Synod, and delegates were appointed to represent said Synod at the present meeting of this Body. Pursuant to a recommendation in the constitution, the Synod was divided into two special conferences, which are called the Eastern and Western Conferences. These conferences are to be held as often as may be desirable, within their respective bounds, and "*the chief business to be performed at them, is to awaken and convert sinners, and to edify*

believers, by close and practical preaching of the Gospel." A resolution was adopted by the brethren, earnestly recommending the Temperance cause to the people whom they represented. A standing committee was also appointed, which is called "*The Committee on the Hartwick Seminary*," to confer with the Principal and Trustees of the Hartwick Seminary, on all subjects connected with the interests and prosperity of said Seminary, and annually report their proceedings to the Synod. Another committee was appointed to inquire and report at the next meeting, on the expediency of publishing a *Religious Periodical*, under the direction of the Synod. Two students of Divinity, from Hartwick Seminary, were licensed, and two licensed candidates ordained. This Synod embraces in its connexion, thirteen ministers, and about thirty-six congregations. The parochial reports are as follows: Baptisms, 609; confirmations, 173; communicants, 2,087; Sunday schools, 7; Missionary societies, 5.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

A communication was received from the officers of the German Reformed Synod of the United States, in relation to the appointment of delegates to this Body which did not appear.

A letter was received from Rev. J. H. OSTERLOH, in relation to the publication of a selection of German Hymns, at his own expense, under the sanction of the Synod; which having been read, was referred to Rev. Doct. Kurtz, Rev. F. Heyer and H. Nixendorf, Esq., as a committee to consider and report thereon.

Rev. G. A. LINTNER, from the committee appointed to examine the proceedings of the Synod of East Pennsylvania, reported, that the last meeting of this body was held at Harrisburgh, Pa., on the last Monday in May 1831. Thirty ordained ministers and two candidates were present at this meeting. The whole number of ministers in connexion with this Synod, is fifty-three. Of these, only thirty-four presented their parochial reports; from which it appears, that they have under their care 145 congregations; performed 3,894 baptisms, 1,847 confirmations, and admitted 18,361 to the celebrations of the Lord's Supper. At the ministerial session, two candidates were ordained, and three students of Theology licensed. There are within the bounds of this Synod, a number of Sunday schools, and other religious and benevolent institutions, which are manifestly attended with the blessing of Almighty God, in promoting the salvation of souls, and advancing the interests of our Evangelical Zion.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

On motion of L. MEDTART, Esq. it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of purchasing and establishing a printing press for the use of this Body.

L. Medtart, Esq., Rev. Prof. Schmucker, Rev. Messrs. Hoffman and Morris, and P. Berlin, Esq., were appointed said committee.

Rev. J. RECK, from the committee appointed to examine the minutes of the Synod of North Carolina, reported, that the last meeting of this Synod was held at Organ Church, Rowan county, on the first Sunday in May 1831. The meeting was attended by six ordained ministers, five licentiates, and two catechets. Four licentiates were ordained as ministers of the gospel. The death of the the Rev. Mr. STORCH is noticed in the proceedings. The number of congregations reported at this meeting, is 33; baptisms, 506; confirmations, 226; communicants, 1,732; Sunday schools, 14. The annual meeting of the "*Evan. Luth. Missionary Society in North Carolina*," was held during the session of the Synod, and measures were adopted to supply a number of destitute places with missionaries. The committee expressed great gratification in communicating the success which has attended the faithful and persevering efforts of this Society, to promote the missionary interests of our church in North Carolina.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

The Synod adjourned, to meet again at 2½ o'clock P. M. Prayer by Rev. Mr. WACHTER.

TUESDAY, 2½ o'clock P. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. J. N. HOFFMAN.

Rev. A. RECK, from the committee appointed to examine the proceedings of the Synod of West Pennsylvania, reported, that this Synod convened at Indiana, on the 15th of October last. The meeting was attended by thirty ministers and one candidate, who reported 112 congregations under their care, and 34 congregations which were left vacant. Baptisms, 1,699; confirmations, 733; communicants, 6,902; Sunday schools, 47; and new churches established during the last year, 7. This Synod is also divided into special conferences, which meet at different places, for the objects specified in the constitution of the District Synods. Within its bounds are a number of missionary societies, Sunday schools, prayer meetings, and other religious and benevolent associations, which

have been attended with many blessings to that portion of our church.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. Doct. KURTZ, from the committee to whom was referred the communication of Rev. Mr. OSTERLOH, reported, that they had examined said communication, and that they would recommend that Rev. Mr. OSTERLOH's proposition to publish a collection of German Hymns, be referred to the "Book Committee," and that he be directed to confer with said committee.

On motion of Rev. Mr. HEYER, it was

Resolved, That this Body attend the meeting of the "*Sunday School Union of the Lutheran Church*," in this place, to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

The *Third Biennial Report* of the board of directors of the *Theological Seminary* of the General Synod of the United States, was then presented, and read by Rev. J. G. MORRIS. [See Appendix.]

On motion of the SECRETARY, it was

Resolved, That the report be accepted, and published with the printed minutes.

Rev. Prof. SCHMUCKER presented a communication from Rev. G. SHOBER, President of the Synod of North Carolina, which having been read, was referred to Rev. Prof. Schmucker and Rev. Docts. Kurtz and Hazelius.

L. MEDTART, Esq., from the committee to inquire into the expediency of purchasing and establishing a printing press for the use of the General Synod, reported, that in the opinion of the committee, it was at this time inexpedient.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

On motion of Rev. Prof. SCHMUCKER, it was

Resolved, That one half of the profits of those works to be published with the sanction of the General Synod, after having been approved by the "Book Committee," shall be paid into the treasury of the General Synod, to constitute a *fund for the relief of superannuated ministers* belonging to the Synods in connexion with this Body, and their *widows and orphans*.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draft a constitution for the enlargement, management and appropriation of the fund for the relief of superannuated ministers, their widows and orphans, and that said committee report at the next meeting of this Body.

Rev. Doct. Kurtz and Messrs. Medtart and Berlin were appointed said committee.

On motion of the SECRETARY,

The Synod then proceeded to the election of the *Editing Committee*.

On counting the ballots, it appeared that the following persons were duly chosen to constitute said committee, viz :

Rev. Docts. Kurtz, Schmucker and Hazelius ; Rev. Professors Schmucker, Miller and Schmid ; Rev. Messrs. G. Shober, J. Bachman, C. P. Krauth, D. F. Schaeffer, G. A. Lintner, J. N. Hoffman, J. G. Morris, C. Hinckel, and J. C. Baker.

On motion of L. MEDTART, Esq.,

The Synod proceeded to the election of the *Book Committee* :

On canvassing the votes, it appeared that the following persons were chosen, viz :

Rev. Prof. Schmucker, Rev. Messrs. D. F. Schaeffer and J. G. Morris, Rev. Docts. Schmucker and Hazelius.

Synod adjourned, to meet to-morrow at 9 o'clock A. M.. Prayer by Rev. F. HEYER.

This evening, divine service was performed in the church by Rev. L. EICHELBERGER. Text, 1 Cor. iv. 2.

WEDNESDAY, November 2, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Synod, in pursuance of a resolution adopted yesterday, attended the Sunday School Union.

The Synod having resumed its business, Rev. Prof. SCHMUCKER, from the committee appointed to examine the proceedings of the Synod of New-York, reported, that the minutes of the last annual meeting of this Synod were not yet published ; but that from the proceedings of 1830, which were examined by the committee, it appeared that twenty-eight ministers and three candidates were in regular connexion with this Synod.* The death of Rev. Mr. HENDRICKS is noticed in the proceedings. Parochial reports were received from 29 congregations. Baptisms, 796 ; confirmations, 279 ; communicants, 1,908 ; Sunday schools, 18 ; teachers, 44 ; scholars, 440. Since the publication of the minutes, it has pleased God to call the President of this Synod, Rev. Doct. F. C. SCHAEFF-

* Including the members of Hartwick Synod, which have since separated.

FER, from time into eternity ; and the ministers and churches in New-York, are now nearly equally divided into two separate Synods.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

On motion of the SECRETARY, it was

Resolved, That the Hymn Book Committee be directed to have the *English Lutheran Catechism*, published by the General Synod, stereotyped.

Resolved, That said committee be authorised to contract with some suitable bookseller in Baltimore, to have it printed, and put in circulation as extensively as possible.

Resolved, That the committee require a just premium per copy, fixing the price both wholesale and retail, and adopting such arrangements as are best calculated to accommodate the church.

On motion of the SECRETARY, it was

Resolved, That the delegates from the different Synods to this Body, be allowed their actual expenses for travelling to and from this Synod, not exceeding five dollars for every hundred miles.

The committee on the letter of Rev. G. SHOBER, reported, that he was desirous of obtaining the views of the brethren, on several subjects mentioned in his communication ; whereupon, it was

Resolved, That Rev. Doct. KURTZ be requested to answer the letter of Rev. Mr. SHOBER, and express to him the views of the brethren on the subjects of his communication.

A communication was received from Doct. GILBERT, of Northumberland, Pa., containing some suggestions in relation to raising a fund for the support of an Agent to promote the objects of several benevolent institutions of our church in the United States ; which was read, and ordered to be laid on the table.

Synod adjourned, to meet at 2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Rev. Mr. MORRIS.

WEDNESDAY, 2 o'clock P. M.

Synod met according to adjournment. In the absence of the PRESIDENT, Rev. Doct. KURTZ was called to the chair. Prayer by Rev. Prof. SCHMUCKER.

The letter from Doct. GILBERT was taken up, and having been maturely considered, it was, on motion of the SECRETARY;

Resolved, That the communication be gratefully received, and that the Synod will use every exertion in their power, to comply with his liberal proposition.

The PRESIDENT appeared, and resumed the chair.

The following preamble and resolutions were then offered by Rev. Prof. SCHMUCKER :

Whereas, it appears from the report submitted to this Body from the Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburgh, that said institution is in absolute need of about \$6,000, to pay for the seminary edifice which is now erecting and will be finished by August next : And whereas, it appears that the Board are desirous of obtaining some Minister of experience and influence in the church, to undertake an agency of six or twelve months, for the object above stated ; therefore

Resolved, That this Synod would be highly gratified, if some brother in our connexion would undertake said agency.

Resolved, That as the Synod is at present unable to furnish such an agent, therefore, with a view to aid in accomplishing the same purpose, a subscription be immediately commenced, each subscriber promising to pay \$5 annually, for five years.

On motion of Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS, it was

Resolved, That the subscriptions contemplated by the foregoing resolutions, be inserted in the Lutheran Observer and Evangelical Magazine.

On motion of Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS, it was

Resolved, That the SECRETARY be authorised to purchase a trunk of suitable dimensions, for the safe keeping of the archives and the books and papers of the Synod, which are necessary to be preserved.

On motion of the SECRETARY, it was

Resolved, That the "*Lutheran Observer*," an English periodical, published semi-monthly at Baltimore, and "*The Evangelical Magazine*," a German work published monthly at Gettysburgh, be recommended by this Body, to the patronage of the friends of our church in the United States.

On motion of Rev. Mr. HOFFMAN, it was

Resolved, That the PRESIDENT and SECRETARY prepare a *Pastoral Letter* from this Body to the churches in its connexion, to be annexed to the printed minutes.

On motion of Rev. A. RECK, it was

Resolved, That 500 copies of the Minutes be published in the English, and 300 copies in the German language.

The Synod then proceeded to fix the time and place of its next annual meeting, and it was

Resolved, That the next biennial meeting of this Body, be held at *Baltimore on the last Sunday in October 1833.*

Synod adjourned to attend divine service, and after service, to meet at eight o'clock in the evening, at the residence of Rev. PRESIDENT. Prayer by Rev. Mr. HOFFMAN.

A discourse was delivered at six o'clock this evening, in the church, by Rev. J. RECK. Text, Luke vi. 19.

WEDNESDAY, 8 o'clock P. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, at the house of Rev. PRESIDENT. Prayer by Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS.

The following persons were appointed a committee to circulate the subscription of \$5 annually for *five* years, in aid of the funds of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburgh, viz :

Lewis Medtart of Frederick, Md. ; Abraham Lichtenwalter, Taneytown ; Issac Baugher, Emmitsburgh ; Samuel Horboch, Middletown ; Doct. Boerstler, Funkstown ; Geo. Shryock, Hagerstown ; Launcelot Bell, Williamsport ; Chas. Smith, Waynesburgh ; Christopher Flory, Smithtown ; David Martin and George Hager, Baltimore ; E. Easter, Cumberland ; J. Black, Martinsburgh ; David Entler, Shepherdstown ; Abm. Miller, Winchester ; Samuel H. Buchler, Gettysburgh ; Philip Smyser, York ; P. Berlin, Chambersburgh ; John Triter, Franklin ; Doct. Mitzger, Hanover ; M. Hoover, Mechanicsburgh ; J. Sener, Carlisle ; Philip Ziegler, Newville ; J. Wolf, Shippensburgh ; Michael Keller, Harrisburgh ; Doct. Dobler, Elizabethtown ; Geo. L. Mayer, Lancaster ; Charles Dull, Philadelphia ; Michael Halt, Orange county, N. C. ; Gen. Barringer, Cabarrus county, N. C.

The PRESIDENT, Rev. Prof. SCHMUCKER and Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS, were appointed a committee to procure a suitable person as General Agent, to be recommended by them to the President of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburgh, for the objects stated in the report submitted by them to this Body.

The Synod then adjourned, to meet at the time and place of its next biennial convention. The concluding prayer was offered up by the Rev. PRESIDENT, and at a late hour of the night, the brethren separated, mutually rejoicing, and blessing God for the manifold tokens of his blessing, which He had so graciously vouchsafed them during this interesting meeting.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the Proceedings of the Sixth General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States.

G. A. LINTNER, *Secretary.*

THE
THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT

*Of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary, to the
General Synod.*

In presenting their third stated report to the General Synod, the Board would express their gratitude to Almighty God, for his continued protection of the institution over which they preside. The hand of an overruling and merciful Providence is distinctly recognized in the prosperity which has crowned their efforts, and they desire ever to submit themselves to his gracious direction.

Since the last report, presented to the General Synod of 1829, held at Hagerstown, the Directors have attended all the examinations and public exercises of the students, and are glad to testify to their industry and improvement, and to the unremitted exertions and high qualifications of the Professors.

During the last two years, the following gentlemen have left the Seminary, most of whom are now actively engaged in the field of service, viz: Messrs. Anspach, Yeager, Weyl and Finckel.

In their last report, the Board stated that twenty-six students were connected with the institution; they now have the pleasure to report, that there are at present fifty young men in the various stages of preparation for the ministry; the number having been doubled in the last two years.

Since the last meeting of the Synod, several events of great interest and importance have occurred, which will contribute much to perpetuate the prosperity of the institution. At the meeting of the Board, held May 17th, 1830, the Rev. ERNST L. HAZELIUS, D. D., of Hartwick, N. Y., was unanimously elected Professor of Biblical and Oriental Literature, and the German language. Doct. HAZELIUS accepted the appointment, and at the next meeting of the Board, on Sept. 29th of the same year, he was solemnly inaugurated into office, in the presence of the Board and a large assembly of attentive spectators. Rev. Doct. KURTZ delivered the charge to the Professor elect, who, after having read and signed the decla-

ration, as required by the constitution, delivered an interesting address on the history of our church in this country.

The other event of interest since the last meeting of the Synod, was the laying of the corner stone of the seminary edifice, which took place on May 26th of the present year. A large concourse of people assembled to witness the ceremony. The exercises were conducted by Dr. Schmucker, Rev. Messrs. Uhlhorn, A. Reck, D. F. Schaeffer, Krauth, Heyer and Heim. The edifice is now under roof, and will be finished, it is expected, by next August.

The state of the Gymnasium, in which a number of the Theological students are now pursuing the studies of the classics and sciences, is very flourishing. We have, however, to deplore the loss of one of the instructors, the Rev. DAVID JACOBS, who departed this life at Sheperdstown, Va., on Nov. 4th, 1830. He was a young gentleman of rare endowments and exalted religious worth. The Rev. Mr. BAGER has been appointed his successor.

The support of a second Professor, and the erection of the building, have created a necessity of exerting ourselves to increase our funds. Measures have been in active progress, but we have not altogether succeeded in raising the requisite sum. We hope that the increasing liberality of our people, will enable us shortly to overcome our embarrassment, and establish our institution on a permanent foundation.

The Board would continue to look up to God for guidance, and commend the institution to the prayers and liberality of his people, and to the divine blessing. Frederick, Nov. 1, 1831.

J. G. SCHMUCKER, *Pres't.*

J. G. MORRIS, *Sec'y.*

PASTORAL ADDRESS

Of the General Synod.

The General Synod of the Evan. Luth. Church in the United States, to the People under their care :

“ Grace be to you, and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God our Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

The General Synod, it will be remembered, was organized in October, A. D. 1820. Since that period, a number of regular and stated meetings have been held, which have proved highly beneficial to the interests of our beloved church ; but that, which has just terminated, was, as we conceive, much more important than any that has preceded it, and hence it is a pleasing duty, incumbent upon us, to address our brethren in the faith at this time.

The time when an opposition to this institution appeared plausible, and when men, professing a love for our Zion, and a regard for piety and learning, could wage war against it, with the hope of destroying its usefulness, is past. Considering the wide extent of territory embraced by our church, the non-intercourse of the different Synods for many years, the absence of all means to communicate the events of the day to our people generally, it is a matter of astonishment that so much has been accomplished through the General Synod. The enterprise was despised by some, whilst those who engaged in it, anticipated little more than to lay a foundation for their successors to build upon. But God moves in a mysterious, yet powerful way. By his blessing, the temporal and spiritual, the external and internal concerns of our Zion, have been advanced with unparalleled success. No other church had such formidable difficulties to encounter, as we, with the help of God, have been enabled to overcome. The English language, being the language of our happy country, the greatest and best efforts of our fathers (who, we trust, are now enjoying the fruits of their labors,) to continue the knowledge of the German language among the rising generation, failed. Many, though they spoke it, could not read

it. The result was truly deplorable. The devotional books of their parents became useless, and gradually, in many instances, all attachments to our Zion and vital godliness were lost. In the mean time, some of the English denominations were zealous and active in their endeavors to promote the interests of religion and the prosperity of their churches. But the God of *Arndt, Spener, Francke*, and a host of illustrious founders and benefactors of our church, lives still. At that very critical period, when our church, distinguished for its simplicity in the mode of worship, the purity of doctrine, and excellency of discipline, was about to sink into insignificance, yes, at this important crisis, the General Synod was brought into existence, and this produced the Theological Seminary and Gymnasium, now in active operation and the most prosperous state. Now, our children can be instructed in all the different branches of knowledge, by pious and competent teachers of our own faith. Now, a constant supply of learned and pious ministers, capable of instructing their hearers in both languages, can be supplied from our Theological Seminary. And from this institution they will continually go forth, like a band of brethren, governed by the same principles, and directed by the same spirit.

Several books have already been published in the English language, for the use of the rising generation ; and at this meeting, the Synod has resolved upon the immediate publication of the following works, in order to meet the practical wants of our people, viz :

The Lutheran Manual, to contain the doctrinal articles of the Augsburg Confession ; the entire system of church government published by the General Synod ; and a sketch of the history of the Lutheran church from its origin.

The Lutheran Preacher, to contain a series of sermons on the prominent articles of practical theology.

The Lutheran Panoplist. The object of this work is to correct some of the erroneous views which, in various parts of our country, some people entertain of our doctrines and discipline.

A translation of "*Arndt's Wahres Christenthum*," a work of great practical usefulness, in the German language.

A Liturgy, for the use of our church in the United States, to be added to another edition of our hymn book, which is soon to be published at Baltimore, in a larger type than that which has hitherto been used.

With these, we hope every father of a family will supply himself. Arrangements have also been made, to re-print such German

practical works as may be needed. We confidently hope, that in a few years more, we shall be amply supplied with devotional books of our own church, and realize the unspeakable and numberless blessings, which our pious forefathers derived from this source of religious knowledge and improvement. We do therefore most earnestly invite your prayers for the welfare of our Zion. When in your closets, lecture room, or the sanctuary, call upon the Giver of every thing good, for his blessing upon the operations of the General Synod. It will afford you joy in Heaven, thus to have contributed to the salvation of your posterity.

In a number of churches, the work of God has been extensive and powerful, whilst the Holy Spirit's influence has distilled like the dew, moistening the seeds which were scattered over the field. From the accounts we have received as to the state of our church in different states, we rejoice to learn that all benevolent institutions are more or less encouraged and sustained. Sunday schools are increasing. Prayer meetings, conducted according to the scriptures, are very numerous, and have proved a great blessing to many souls that were on the brink of eternal ruin. Education and missionary societies are increasing. Already are pious young men preparing for the ministry, through the pecuniary aid furnished by our young sisters in the faith, who obtain it by the point of their needles! Instead of attending the ball-room for amusement, they meet to encourage industry and promote objects of benevolence, by preparing useful articles, which are disposed of, to aid the funds of the education and missionary societies to which they are attached.

The Colonization society, fraught with so many blessings to our republic and the church of Christ, is very zealously supported by many of our people. Indeed, we know of no benevolent institution in our country, that does not number among its patrons, some of our most devoted members.

If ever a church had cause to rejoice in God, and to use her energies in carrying on her operations against the prince of darkness, it is our own. Since the establishment of the General Synod, God hath indeed favored us with many glorious manifestations of his power and grace. To him be all the glory.

The organization of a new Synod—the Hartwick Synod—embracing the western part of the state of New-York, and its connexion with the General Synod, is another proof that God is with us. This Synod is composed of a band of pious and devoted ministers, whose ardent and persevering labors in the cause, have long since been ex-

tensively known in the church. Many of our people who sat in darkness, have seen the light, and walk in newness of life, by the grace of God through the Word. Let our ministers and people labor and pray, that the number of the faithful may increase, and that the work of reformation may go on. Let us faithfully adhere to the word of God, and invariably follow its direction; let us not follow the course of some, whose extravagant conduct tends rather to create disorder and confusion, than godly edifying. Against such we would affectionately warn you, however popular they may be. As Lutherans, we admonish you, "be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children, and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God, for a sweet smelling savour."

Now is the time for action. Various erroneous doctrines are inculcated, and frequently in a most insidious and secret manner. Unless you watch and pray, and fix upon God's word as your guide, the enemy will entrap you. Remember, the weapon of the true and godly Lutheran, is the word of God. This is his shield and buckler and sword, with which he encounters the enemies of his salvation. Put on this armor of God, and then may you go forth and join in the victorious song of Luther—

"Ist Gott fuer mich, so trete
Gleich alles wider mich
So oft ich sing und bete,
Weicht alles hinter sich.
Hab ich das Haupt zum Freunde,
Und bin beliebt bey Gott,
Was kann mir thun der Feinde
Und Widersacher roth?"

By order of the General Synod of the Evan. Luth. Church in the United States. Frederick, November 2, 1831.

DAVID F. SCHAEFFER, *President.*

GEORGE A. LINTNER, *Secretary.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States.

The second biennial meeting of the Sunday School of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, was held in the Evan. Luth. Church at Frederick, Maryland, November 1, 1831.

The President, Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER in the chair. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. J. N. HOFFMAN.

The following officers were chosen, viz :

Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER, of Frederick, Md., *President.*

Rev. G. A. LINTNER, Schoharie, N. Y., *Rec. Sec'y.*

C. A. MORRIS, Esq., York, Pa., *Treasurer.*

Rev. Prof. S. S. SCHMUCKER, Gettysburgh, Pa., *Cor. Sec'y.*

Rev. F. HEYER, General Agent of the Union, submitted his report, in which he stated, that during the first year of his agency, which commenced on the 21st June, 1830, he had travelled nearly 5,000 miles, and preached in about 300 different places. He visited most of our Sunday schools in Pennsylvania and Maryland, since his appointment, and succeeded in establishing a number of Sunday schools in different places which he visited. The number of Sunday schools in connexion with the Lutheran Church in the United States, as nearly as he could ascertain, amounts to about two hundred, which are attended by about 10,000 children, and from 800 to 1,000 teachers. The amount received by collections, donations, &c. during the year, is \$327.89. Add to this, \$200, the contemplated appropriation from a legacy given for this object, and the whole sum that has been received for the benefit of this cause, will amount to \$527.89. From twelve to fifteen thousand German Sunday school books and tracts, have been printed, some of which have been sold, and others distributed gratuitously.

Small depositories have been established in York, Harrisburgh, Gettysburgh, and Pittsburgh ; but many of the schools cannot be conveniently supplied from these places, and therefore the Agent recommended in his report, that an extensive depository be established in some central place, like Philadelphia, from which all the

books and tracts that are needed by our Sunday schools in different parts of the country, might be easily furnished.

The Agent further remarked in his report, that when we take into consideration the great number of children in connexion with the Lutheran church, which are of suitable age to attend the Sunday school, it will appear that comparatively little has been done by our people in this department of christian benevolence ; and that the attention of the church should be more generally directed to this important object. The christian public is becoming daily more interested in the spiritual welfare of the rising generation, and it is upon them that we must build our hopes. The young people of our German population, in many places, are peculiarly situated ; and among many of them, the Sunday School Union might exert a very salutary influence. German week-day schools are generally discontinued, and in many German settlements within the bounds of the Union, the children are either not educated at all, or sent to English schools. But it is well known, that in many parts of Pennsylvania and Ohio, the German language is exclusively used in families and congregations, when they assemble for public worship. Many, therefore, who learn to read English, do not understand what they read, and consequently cannot be benefited by religious instructions communicated in the English language. Hence a confused state of things must and will prevail, unless the children be furnished with opportunities for improvement in the German language. Many parents, however, supposing that their children do not stand in need of a German education to qualify them for wordly business, and feeling but little interest in their spiritual welfare, are unwilling to spare the time, and pay the expenses of sending their children to German schools. It would, therefore, be of the greatest importance to introduce among this part of our population, Sunday schools generally. And the importance of this object is so deeply realised by many of our English people, that they have repeatedly offered their generous support and zealous co-operation in the undertaking.

In the conclusion of his report, the Agent recommended to the Union, an alteration in the constitution, so as to constitute the General Synod the parent institution ; the District Synods, auxiliaries ; the officers of the General Synod, officers of the Sunday School Union ; and the delegates of the District Synods, managers ; to meet and transact the business of the Union, during the meeting of the General Synod. He considered this plan most advisable, to con-

centrate the efforts of the Lutheran church in the United States in support of this object, and recommended its adoption, with a full persuasion that it would lead to the most important and beneficial results to the interests of the Sunday school cause.

On motion of Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS, seconded by Rev. A. RECK, it was

Resolved, That the report of the General Agent be accepted, and published with the Proceedings of the General Synod.

On motion of the CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, seconded by L. MEDTART, Esq., it was

Resolved, That the alteration in the constitution, recommended in the report of the General Agent, be adopted.

On motion of the RECORDING SECRETARY, seconded by Rev. J. N. HOFFMAN, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this Union be presented to Rev. Mr. HEYER, the General Agent, for his faithful and successful exertions to promote the object of his appointment.

Rev. Mr. HEYER informed the Union, that he had entered into a pastoral engagement with the congregation at Somerset, Pa., which would render it doubtful whether he could continue his agency. Whereupon, it was

Resolved, That the officers of this Union be a committee to obtain a suitable minister of our church, to act as General Agent for the ensuing year, in case Rev. Mr. HEYER cannot continue his agency.

The Agent informed the Union, that a committee was appointed by the Sunday School Union of the German Reformed Church, to publish Sunday school books and tracts in the German language, and that they were desirous of co-operating with this Union. Whereupon, it was

Resolved, That Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS and the TREASURER be a committee to superintend the printing of German Sunday school books and tracts, and act in concert with a similar committee of the Sunday School Union of the German Reformed Church.

The Union then adjourned, to meet at the time and place fixed for the next biennial convention of the General Synod. Concluding prayer by Rev. F. HEYER.

G. A. LINTNER, *Rec. Sec'y.*

STATISTICS

Of the Evan. Luth. Church in the U. States, for the year 1831.

GENERAL SYNOD.

Officers.

President, REV. DAVID F. SCHAEFFER, Frederick, Md.

Secretary, REV. GEORGE A. LINTNER, Schoharie, N. Y.

Treasurer, CHARLES A. BARNITZ, York, Pa.

This Body is composed of delegates from the District Synods, and meets biennially. Next convention to be held at Baltimore, on the last Sunday in October, 1833.

SYNOD OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA.

Officers.

Senior, REV. F. D. SCHAEFFER, D. D., Philadelphia.

President, REV. C. R. DEMME, Philadelphia.

Secretary, REV. J. P. SHINDEL, Sunbury, Pa.

Treasurer, REV. — ULRICH, Tulpehocken, Pa.

Ordained Ministers.

| Rev. Schaeffer, D. D. | Rev. Mr. Uhlhorn |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| " C. Jaeger | " Stein |
| " Roeller, sen. | " Filbert |
| " Hecht | " Strein |
| " J. Miller | " G. Jaeger |
| " Ulrich | " Lochman |
| " Batis | " Binninger |
| " Carpenter | " J. Shindel |
| " Van Hoff | " Doering |
| " Hemping | " Ruthrauf |
| " J. P. Shindel | " Heim |
| " Probst | " Menning |
| " Ernst | " Abele |
| " Wortman | " Waage |
| " C. P. Miller | " Scheurer |
| " J. Jaeger | " Reichert |
| " Roeller, jun. | " Ball |

Rev. Mr. Trumbauer

" Meendsen

" Keller

" Baker

" C. Miller

" B. German

" Krauth

" Demme

Rev. Mr. Weigandt

" Waltz

" Heilig

" H. S. Miller

" Wampole

" Kaemmer

" Gross

" G. German

Licentiates.

Rev. Mr. J. Herpel

" M. Herpel

Rev. Mr. I. Schitz

Ordained ministers, 51. Licentiates, 3. Congregations, 145.
 Baptisms, 3,894. Confirmations, 1,847. Communicants, 18,361.
 Next meeting of the Synod at Womelsdorf, Trinity Sunday, 1832.

SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

*Officers.**Senior*, Rev. F. H. QUITMAN, D. D., Rhinebeck.*President*, Rev. AUGUSTUS WACKERHAGEN, D. D., Clermont.*Secretary*, Rev. JACOB BERGER, Ghent.*Treasurer*, Rev. HENRY N. POHLMAN, N. Germantown, N. J.*Ordained Ministers.*

Rev. Quitman, D. D.

" P. F. Mayer, D. D.

" Uhl

" Wackerhagen, D. D.

" F. G. Mayer

" F.W.Geissenhainer, D D

" Domcier

" Starman

" Miller

" Pohlman

" Senderling

Rev. Mr. Berger

" Eyer

" Thuemmel

" F W Geissenhainer jr

" F. H. Guenther

" Strobel

" H. I. Smith

" C. A. Smith

" Lehman

" Hayunga

" Schwaekhammer, lic.

Ordained ministers, 21. Licentiate, 1. Congregations, 25. Baptisms, 518. Confirmations, 94. Communicants, 1,583.

Next meeting of the Synod at Albany, on the second Sunday in September, 1832.

SYNOD OF OHIO.

Officers.

President, Rev. A. HENKEL, Germantown, Ohio.

Secretary, Rev. C. G. SCHWEITZERBARTH, Zenienople, Pa.

Treasurer, Rev. J. WAGENHALS, New-Lancaster, Ohio.

Ordained Ministers.

| Rev. Mr. Steck | Rev. Mr. Fast |
|-------------------|---------------|
| " Stauch | " Schmid |
| " Weigandt | " Schuh |
| " Huet | " C. Henckel |
| " Leist | " Wagenhals |
| " Steck, jr. | " Keil |
| " Reinhart | " Melsheimer |
| " Riemen | " Kaemmerer |
| " Schneider | " Heinicke |
| " A. Henckel | " Manning |
| " Mechling | " Schulze |
| " Schweitzerbarth | |

Licentiates.

| Rev. Mr. Kuchler | Rev. Mr. Rathbun |
|------------------|------------------|
| " Gruber | " Rothacker |
| " Schaeffer | " Gerhard |

Ordained Ministers, 23. Licentiates, 6. Congregations, 128.
Baptisms, 2,172. Confirmations, 720. Communicants, 8,388.

Next meeting of the Synod at Columbus, Trinity Festival, 1832.

SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Officers.

President, G. SHOBER, Salem.

Secretary, Rev. H. GRAEBER, Lincoln county.

[President officiates as Treasurer.]

Ordained Ministers.

| Rev. Mr. Shober | Rev. Mr. Grieson |
|-----------------|------------------|
| " Scherer | " Grimes |
| " Miller | " Reichert |
| " Reck | " Rosenmiller |
| " Graeber | " Artz |
| " Jenkins | " Seechrist |
| " Schoenberg | " Kempfer |

Ordained ministers, 14. Congregations, 33. Baptisms, 506.

Confirmations, 226. Communicants, 1732. Next meeting of the Synod in St. Paul's Church, Lincoln county, on the third Sunday in May, 1832.

SYNOD OF MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA.

Officers.

President, Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER, Frederick, Md.

Secretary, Rev. J. MEDTART, Martinsburgh, Va.

Treasurer, Rev. M. WACHTER, Frederick, Md.

Ordained Ministers.

Rev. Kurtz, D. D.

Rev. Mr. Albert

Rev. Mr. Hoshour

" Haversteck

" Medtart

" Haas

" A. Reck

" J. Reck

" Winter

" Eichelberger

" Wachter

" Ruth

" Hoffman

" Baugher

" Morris

Ordained ministers, 15. Congregations, 32. Baptisms, 977.
Confirmations, 421. Communicants, 3,352.

SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA.

Officers.

President, Rev. F. HEYER, Somerset, Pa.

Secretary, ——— ———

Treasurer, Rev. W. YAGER, Bedford.

Ordained Ministers.

Rev. Schmucker, D. D.

Rev. Hazelius, D. D.

" Ruthrauf, sen.

" W. Schulze

" Stecher

" Deininger

" S. S. Schmucker

" Moser

" Crigler

" Yager

" Stroh

" Heim

" Ruthrauf, jr.

" Hoyer

" Kurtz

" Meyer

" Oswald

" Martin

" Gottwald

" Brown

" Scriba

" Heilig

" Sharretts

" G. Schulze

" Reichert

" Weil

" Rebenack

" Keil

" Osterloh

" Anspach

Ordained ministers, 30. Congregations, 146. Baptisms, 1,699. Confirmations, 733. Communicants, 6,902.

SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Officers.

President, Rev. J. BACHMAN, Charleston, S. C.

Secretary, Rev. C. F. BERGMAN, Ebenezer, Ga.

Treasurer, Rev. G. DREHER, Lexington, S. C.

Ordained Ministers.

Rev. Mr. Bachman

Rev. Mr. Scheck

" Dreher

" Meetze

" Rauch

" Bergman

" Mealy

" Hope, *licentiate*.

" Moser

Ordained ministers, 8. Licentiate, 1. Congregations, 26. Baptisms, 376. Confirmations, 146. Communicants, 1,452.

HARTWICK SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

Officers.

President, Rev. G. A. LINTNER, Schoharie.

Secretary, Rev. J. D. LAWYER, Sandlake.

Treasurer, Rev. P. WEITING, Sharon.

Ordained Ministers.

Rev. Mr. Lintner

Rev. Mr. Kilmer

" Crownse

" Klein

" Beilhartz

" Weiting

" Eisenlord

" Cole

" Lape

" Selmsier, *licentiate*.

" Eyster

" Otman, *do*.

" Lawyer

Ordained ministers, 11. Licentiate, 2. Congregations, 34. Baptisms, 660. Confirmations, 190. Communicants, 2,332.

Next meeting of the Synod, at Dansville, Livingston county, on the last Saturday in September, 1832.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION OF THE EVAN. LUTH. CHURCH IN
THE UNITED STATES.

Officers.

President, Rev. DAVID F. SCHAEFFER, Frederick, Md.

Rec. Sec'y, Rev. GEORGE A. LINTNER, Schoharie, N. Y.

Treasurer, C. A. MORRIS, York, Pa.

Cor. Sec'y, Rev. SAMUEL S. SCHMUCKER, Gettysburgh, Pa.

General Agent, Rev. F. HEYER, Somerset, Pa.

The Union meets at the time and place fixed for the next biennial convention of the General Synod.

MISSIONARY AND EDUCATION SOCIETIES OF THE EVAN. LUTH.
CHURCH IN THE U. STATES.

*Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Society of North Carolina and
adjacent states. Formed May 7, 1828.*

Officers.

President, Rev. D. P. ROSENMILLER, Germantown, N. C.

Vice-Presidents, Rev. G. SHOBER, Salem.

Rev. D. SCHERER, Cabarrus.

C. VOGLER, Esq.

C. BROWN, Esq.

Secretary, Rev. W. ARTZ, Orange county.

Treasurer, Rev. D. SCHERER, Cabarrus.

12 Directors.

Next annual meeting of the Society, in St. Paul's Church, Lincoln county, on the third Sunday in May, 1832.

*Domestic Missionary and Education Society of the Lutheran Church
in the State of New-York. Formed May 12, 1823.*

Officers.

President, Hon. W. C. BOUCK, Schoharie.

Vice-Presidents, Hon. W. MANN, Schoharie.

Rev. F. G. MAYER, Albany.

*Rev. F. C. SCHAEFFER, New-York.

H. I. FREY, Esq., Palatine.

*M. MOORE, Johnstown.

* Deceased.

Rec. Sec'y, Rev. J. Z. SENDERLING, Brunswick.

Treasurer, C. H. SCHAFER, Schoharie.

Cor. Sec'y, Rev. G. A. LINTNER, Schoharie.

30 Managers.

Next annual meeting of the Society, in St. Paul's Church, Schoharie, on the first Tuesday in May, 1832

Parent Domestic Missionary and Education Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland and Virginia. Formed October 20, 1828.

Officers.

President, GEORGE HAGER, Esq., Baltimore.

Vice-Presidents, Rev. Doct. KURTZ, Baltimore.

Rev. B. KURTZ, Chambersburgh.

Rev. A. RECK, Frederick, Md.

J. SCHRYOCK, Esq., Hagerstown.

Rec. Sec'y, Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER, Frederick.

Treasurer, LEWIS MEDTART, Esq., Frederick.

Cor. Sec'y, Rev. J. G. MORRIS, Baltimore.

20 Managers.

Society meets annually at the time and place fixed for the meeting of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia.

Missionary & Education Society of the Synod of West Pennsylvania.

Officers.

President, Hon. J. A. SCHULTZE, Carlise.

Vice-Presidents, Rev. Doct. SCHMUCKER, York.

Rev. J. RUTHRAUF, Greencastle.

Secretaries, Rev. F. HEYER, Somerset.

Rev. N. G. SHARRETT, Indiana.

Treasurer, Rev. J. W. HEIM.

Annual meetings of the Society, at the time and place fixed for the meeting of the Synod.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES OF THE EVAN. LUTH. CHURCH IN
THE U. STATES.

Hartwick Seminary, Otsego county, N. Y. Founded in 1815.

Rev. G. B. MILLER, Principal.

Rev. C. B. THUEMMELE, Assistant Teacher.

Board of Trustees.

Officers.

Rev. AUGUSTUS WACKERHAGEN, Clermont, President.

J. D. HUSBANDS, Esq., Hartwick, Secretary.

J. CLARK, Hartwick, Treasurer.

W. C. BOUCK, Esq., Schoharie, Agent.

Members.

Rev. F. G. MAYER, Albany.

“ D. NASH, Otsego.

“ G. A. LINTNER, Schoharie.

“ J. D. LAWYER, Sandlake.

D. SIMMONS, Esq., Brunswick.

P. N. BONESTEEL, Esq., Rhinebeck.

A. METCALF, Esq., Otsego.

Doct. J. C. MOELLER, Sharon.

*Theological Seminary of the General Synod of the Evan. Lutheran
Church in the U. States, Gettysburgh, Pa. Founded in 1825.*

Rev. SAMUEL S. SCHMUCKER, Professor of Didactic, Polemic
and Pastoral Theology, and Pulpit Eloquence.

Rev. ERNST L. HAZELIUS, D. D., Professor of Sacred Literature,
Ecclesiastical History, and the German language.

Board of Directors.

Officers.

Rev. J. G. SCHMUCKER, D. D., York, Pa., President.

Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER, Frederick, Md., Vice-President.

Rev. J. G. MORRIS, Baltimore, Secretary.

C. A. BARNITZ, Esq., York, Pa., Treasurer.

Members.

Rev. J. RUTHRAUF, Sen., Greencastle, Pa.

Rev. W. HEIM, Landisburgh, Pa.

Rev. F. HEYER, Somerset, Pa.

" A. RECK, Frederick, Md.

" J. N. HOFFMAN, Taneytown, Md.

" G. SHOBER, Salem, N. C.

" W. ARTZ, Orange county, N. C.

" D. P. ROSENMILLER, Germantown, N. C.

Mr. C. A. MORRIS, York, Pa.

" G. TROSTLE.

" G. HAGER, Baltimore.

" L. MEDTART, Frederick, Md.

" C. MELCHIOR, North Carolina.

" G. VOGLER, do.

There is also a Gymnasium, or Classical Department, connected with this Seminary, which is under the government and direction of the following Officers and Teachers, viz :

Rev. H. L. BAUGHER, Professor of Languages.

Mr. M. JACOBS, Professor of Sciences.

Trustees.

Rev. C. P. KRAUTH, Philadelphia, President.

" J. RUTHRAUF, Jun., Secretary.

" E. KELLER, Germantown, Pa., Treasurer.

" D. F. SCHAEFFER, Frederick, Md.

" A. RECK, do.

" B. KURTZ, Chambersburgh, Pa.

Theological Seminary of the Evan. Luth. Synod of Ohio, Canton, Ohio. Founded in 1830.

Rev. W. SCHMID, Professor of Christian Theology.

Board of Directors.

Rev. A. HENKEL, Germantown.

" J. LEIST, Pickaway County.

" C. G. SCHWEITZERBARTH, Zeligensple.

" J. WAGENHALS, Centreville.

Mr. AUGUSTUS SWAN.

" CHRISTIAN HEYL.

" JOHN LEIST.

" F. A. SCHNEIDER.

Theological Seminary of the Evan. Luth. Church in South Carolina.

This Seminary was established by the Evan. Luth. Synod of South Carolina, in 1829.

At a subsequent meeting of the Synod, Rev. J. G. SCHWARTZ was elected Professor of Theology, and a Board of Directors chosen to superintend the affairs of the Seminary.

The Professorship was recently vacated by the lamented death of Rev. Mr. SCHWARTZ, and until this vacancy is supplied, the operations of the Seminary will probably be suspended.

CONSTITUTION

Of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in the United States of North America.

[Translated from the original German copy.]

JESUS CHRIST, the Supreme Head of His Church, having prescribed no entire specific directory for government and discipline, and every section of his church being left at full liberty to make such regulations to that effect, as may be most adapted to its situation and circumstances, therefore—Relying upon God our Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God, for the promotion of the practice of brotherly love, to the furtherance of Christian concord, to the firm establishment and continuance of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace—We, the Deputies of the “German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania and the neighboring States,” of the “German and English Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the State of North Carolina and the bordering States,” of the “Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium in the State of New-York, and the neighboring States and Countries, and of the “Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland and Virginia, &c.” for ourselves and our successors, do adopt the following fundamental articles : viz :

ARTICLE I.

The Name, Style and Title of this Convention shall be : “ *The Evangelical Lutheran General Synod of the United States of North America.*”

ARTICLE II.

The General Synod shall consist of the Deputies from the several Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conventions in the United States, who may join themselves thereunto, and be duly acknowledged as members thereof, in the following ratio, namely :

Every Synodal body, or Synod (whether of Ministers only, or of Ministers and Lay Deputies together) containing six Ministers, may send one ; if it contains fourteen, two ; if twenty-five, three ; if forty, four ; if sixty, five ; and if it contain eighty-six Ministers or upwards, six Deputies of the rank of ordained Ministers and an equal number of Lay Deputies.

Each Deputy, appearing in the General Synod according to this ratio, shall, except as is hereinafter provided, enjoy an equal right and vote with all others. Every Synod may choose its Deputies in such a way and manner as to them may seem proper ; and shall pay the travelling expenses of the same to and from the General Synod, until the General Synod shall have established for itself a treasury from which the future expenses may be discharged.

ARTICLE III.

The business of the General Synod shall be as follows, namely :

SECTION I. The General Synod shall examine the Proceedings of the several Synods and Ministeriums belonging to this association, in order that they may obtain some knowledge of the existing state and condition of the Church. The several Synods, therefore, shall transmit as many copies of their proceedings to the General Synod, as there shall be members contained in the General Synod.

SECTION II. With regard to all *Books* and *Writings* proposed for public use in the church, the General Synod shall act as a joint committee of the special Synods and Ministeriums, after the following manner, viz :

1. The General Synod shall examine all books and writings, such as catechisms, forms of liturgy, collections of hymns, or confessions of faith, proposed by the special Synods for public use, and give their well considered advice, counsel or opinion concerning the same.

No Synod, therefore, and no Ministerium, standing in connexion with the General Synod, shall set forth any new book or writing of the kind above mentioned, for public use in the church, without having previously transmitted a full and complete copy thereof to the General Synod, for the purpose of receiving their said advice, counsel or opinion.

2. Whenever the General Synod shall deem it proper or necessary, they may propose to the special Synods or Ministeriums, new books or writings of the kind mentioned above, for general or special, public use. Every proposal of the kind, the several or respective Synods and Ministeriums shall duly consider, and if they or any one of them, shall be of opinion, that the said book or books, writing or writings, will not conduce to the end proposed, then, and in such a case, it is hoped, that the reasons of such opinion will be transmitted to the next convention of the General Synod, in order that the same may be entered on their journal.

3. But no General Synod can be allowed to possess, or arrogate unto itself, “the power of *prescribing* among us *uniform ceremonies of religion* for every part of the Church;” or to introduce such alterations in matters appertaining to the faith, or to the mode of publishing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, (the Son of God, and ground of our faith and hope) as might in any way tend to burden the consciences of the brethren in Christ.

SECTION III. If hereafter twenty-five ministers, dwelling together, within a certain marked boundary, fifteen of whom, being ordained ministers, shall apply to the General Synod for permission to create within themselves a Special Ministerium, and the Synod or Ministerium to which they have previously belonged, do not, upon due notice given of their intention so to apply, make any serious or important objection, then the General Synod shall have power to grant the permission; and if within the bounds of a whole state no special Synod or Ministerium shall yet have existed, and six ordained ministers residing therein shall apply for permission to create within themselves a special Ministerium, the General Synod shall authorize the establishment of a new Synod and Ministerium within the said state. But until the permission or authority be thus formally conceded, no Deputies of a new Synod or Ministerium shall be acknowledged to have a seat and vote in the General Synod.

SECTION IV. With regard to the grades in the Ministry, the

General Synod may give to the several Ministeriums well considered advice, wherein the circumstances of time, place and condition must be duly contemplated, and a beneficial uniformity, and an actual equality of rank among the several ministers, must, as much as possible, be had in view. The General Synod shall also advise such rules and regulations among the several Synods and Ministeriums, as may prevent unpleasant and unfriendly collisions, that might otherwise arise out of any difference of grades existing among them, or from any whatever other possible causes.

SECTION V. The General Synod shall not be looked upon as a Tribunal of Appeal ; it may, however, be employed in the following cases, and after the following manner :

1. The General Synod may give advice or opinion, when complaints shall be brought before them, by whole Synods, Ministeriums, Congregations, or individual Ministers, concerning doctrine or discipline. They shall, however, be extremely careful, that the consciences of Ministers of the Gospel be not burdened with human inventions, laws or devices, and that no one be oppressed by reason of differences of opinion on non-fundamental doctrines.

2. If parties, differing in matters of doctrine and discipline, refer the cause of difference, in a brotherly manner, to the General Synod, they shall institute a close and exact scrutiny and examination thereof, and give their opinion on the subject of difference, according to their best insight of right, equity, brotherly love, and truth.

3. If difference between Synods be referred, the votes thereon shall be taken by Synods, and the referring Synods shall have no vote.

SECTION VI. The General Synod may devise plans for seminaries of education and missionary institutions, as well as for the aid of poor ministers, and the widows and orphans of poor ministers, and endeavor, with the help of God, to carry them into effect.

SECTION VII. The General Synod may also institute and create a treasury, for the effectual advancement of its purposes.

SECTION VIII. The General Synod shall apply all their powers, their prayers and their means, towards the prevention of schisms among us, to be sedulously and incessantly regardful of the circumstances of the times, and of every casual rise and progress of unity of sentiment among christians in general, in order that the blessed opportunities to promote concord and unity, and the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom, may not pass by neglected and unavailing.

ARTICLE IV.

The General Synod shall choose, from among their own number, a president and a secretary; and from among their own number, or elsewhere, as soon as it may be necessary, a treasurer. They shall continue in office until the next succeeding convention. The same person is at all times re-eligible as secretary or treasurer; but no one may be elected president more than two conventions in succession, and the same person cannot thereafter be elected for the two successively following conventions.

SECTION I. The president shall act as chairman of the convention. He may make motions, give his opinion, and vote like every other member. With the consent and concurrence of the minister of the place where the convention is held, he shall appoint the several preachers during the convention. He shall subscribe all letters, written advices, resolutions, and proceedings of the Synod. In extraordinary cases, and by request of any one of the acknowledged Synods, made known to him in the form of a Synodical or Ministerial resolution, he may call together special conventions of the General Synod. * In case the business of the secretary become too burdensome for one person to execute, he shall, with the concurrence of the secretary, appoint an assistant secretary, and make known to him what portion of the labors he ought to undertake.

SECTION II. The secretary shall keep a journal of the proceedings, write, attest, and take care of all the documents and writings, make known the time and place of the convention, by the medium of the public prints, at least three months beforehand, and, in the special or extraordinary cases mentioned in the foregoing section, he shall give written notice thereof to each of the special Synods or Ministeriums.

SECTION III. If the president or secretary, in the intermediate time between the conventions, depart this life, resign his office, or become incapable of executing the same, the next in office shall take his place and perform his duties; if it be the treasurer, then the president shall appoint another treasurer *ad interim* in his stead.

SECTION IV. The treasurer shall keep account of the receipts and expenditures of the Synod. He shall give receipts for all monies put into his hands. He shall not pay any monies out of his hands but by order of the president, attested by the secretary, in pursuance of a resolution of the Synod to that effect. At every convention of the Synod he shall render account.

ARTICLE V.

The course of business shall be conducted as follows, viz :

1. The deputies shall give personal notice of their arrival to the minister of the place, or if the congregation be vacant of a minister, to any other person appointed by the congregation for the purpose, who shall make known to them their place of residence and the place where the sessions shall be held.

2. At nine o'clock in the forenoon of the first week-day of the time of convocation, the sessions shall begin and be opened with prayer.

3. The president elected by the former convention, shall act as chairman till another president be chosen. In case of his absence, the persons present may, on motion made and seconded, appoint another in his stead.

4. The members shall give in to the chairman their attestations or certificates. For all the deputies from any one particular Synod, one certificate, signed by the president and attested by the secretary of that Synod, shall be deemed sufficient, and all the members of the same Synod shall sit together.

5. If a majority of the deputies of a majority of the Synods attached to the General Synod, be present, the business shall go on. If this proportion be lacking, the members present may from time to time postpone the sessions of the convention.

6. The president, secretary and treasurer shall be elected by ballot, on the first day of the sessions, and so soon as the members shall have given in their certificates.

7. The proceedings of the former convention shall be read by the secretary.

8. Hereupon follow the several portions of business according to Article 3, section for section.

9. Now other mixed motions may be made, concerning the subjects already discussed, or any other matters that may occur.

10. In conclusion the General Synod shall appoint, by ballot, the time and place of the next convention, observing at all times, however, that one convention at least, be held every three years.

ARTICLE VI.

The General Synod may make whatever by-laws they may deem necessary, provided only, that the said by-laws do not contradict the spirit of the constitution.

ARTICLE VII.

No alteration of this constitution may be made except by the consent of two thirds of the Synods attached to this convention ; notice of the intended alteration having been given to the said Synods at least two years previous to the final adoption thereof.

Signed October 24th, in the year of our Lord 1820.

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| J. G. SCHMUCKER, | } | Of Pennsylvania. |
| GEO. LOCHMAN, | | |
| CHRISTIAN ENDRESS, | | |
| F. W. GEISSENHAINER, | | |
| H. A. MUHLENBERG, | | |
| CHR. KUNKEL, | | |
| WM. HENSEL, | } | Of New-York. |
| PETER STICHTER, | | |
| PH. F. MAYER, | } | Of North Carolina. |
| F. C. SCHAEFFER, | | |
| GOTTL. SCHOBBER, | } | Of Maryland. |
| PETER SCHMUCKER, | | |
| DAVID KURTZ, | } | |
| D. F. SCHAEFFER, | | |
| GEO. SCHRYOCK, | | |

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

IN

THE UNITED STATES.

CONVENED AT BALTIMORE, OCTOBER, 1833.

ALBANY:
PRINTED BY HOFFMAN & WHITE.

1833.



SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES.

The clerical and lay representatives from the District Synods constituting this body, assembled at Baltimore, Md., on Saturday, Oct. 26, 1833. In the evening divine service was held in the lecture room of the English Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. DAVID EYSTER, of the Hartwick Synod, preached from Hebrews ii. 3.

On Sabbath morning, Rev. DAVID F. SCHAEFFER, President of the Synod, delivered a discourse in the English Evangelical Lutheran Church, from Rom. i. 16. In the afternoon the Synod united with the congregation in the celebration of the Lord's supper, and an address was delivered on the occasion by Rev. PROFESSOR KRAUTH, of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburgh. In the evening another discourse was delivered by Rev. Doct. S. S. SCHMUCKER, of the Theological Seminary, from Revelation St. John xiv. 13. In the German Reformed Church, Rev Prof. KRAUTH preached in the morning, from Luke xviii. 10—14. And in the evening, a discourse was delivered at the same place, by Rev. J. OSWALD, of the Synod of West-Pennsylvania, from Ephesians i. 7.

EVAN. LUTH. CHURCH, BALTIMORE, }
Monday, October 28, 9 o'clock, A. M. }

The Synod was opened with prayer by Rev. Doct. KURTZ, of Baltimore.

From the Minutes of the District Synods, and other credentials, it appeared that the following persons were entitled to seats as members of the General Synod, viz :

From the Synod of North Carolina.

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Rev. H. GRAEBER, | P. BARRINGER, Esq. |
| | C. MELCHOR, Esq. |

Synod of Maryland.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER, | H. NIXDORF, Esq. |
| Rev. J. G. MORRIS, | J. MEDTART, Esq. |

Synod of West-Pennsylvania.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Rev. Doct. J. G. SCHMUCKER, | F. SMITH, Esq. |
| Rev. F. HEYER, | C. A. MORRIS, Esq. |
| Rev. J. OSWALD, | Doct. D. GILBERT. |

Hartwick Synod of New-York.

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rev. G. A. LINTNER, | W. C. BOUCK, Esq. |
| Rev. D. EYSTER, | J. C. MOELLER, Esq. |

Rev. Doct. KURTZ, Rev. J. N. HOFFMAN, and B. KURTZ, of the Synod of Maryland, Rev. Doct. S. S. SCHMUCKER, of the Synod of West-Pennsylvania, Rev. Prof. KRAUTH, and Mr. SCHRACK, of the Synod of East-Pennsylvania, appeared, and were admitted as advisory members.

The Synod then proceeded to the election of officers ; and on canvassing the votes, it appeared that the following brethren were duly elected, viz :

Rev. D. F. SCHAEFFER, President.
 Rev G. A. LINTNER, Secretary.
 C. A. MORRIS, Esq. Treasurer.

Rev. B. KURTZ, editor of the Lutheran Observer, having asked permission to take notes of the proceedings of the Synod during the present session, it was

Resolved, That the request of Rev. Mr. Kurtz be granted, and that he be invited to take his seat at the Secretary's table.

Rev. Mr. UNGERER and Mr. LEHMAN, from the United Evangelical Church, of Washington city, were admitted as advisory members of the Synod.

The Minutes of the last General Synod, convened at Frederick, Md., in October, 1831, were then read by the Secretary, and approved by the Synod.

The Minutes of the several District Synods were presented by the President and Secretary, and referred to the following committees, to consider and report thereon, viz :

Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina,—Rev. Doct. Kurtz, Rev. F. Heyer, and H. Nixdorf, Esq.

Synod of Maryland,—Rev. Doct. Schmucker, Rev. J. G. Morris, and F. Smith, Esq.

Synod of West-Pennsylvania,—Rev. D. Eyster, C. A. Morris, and J. Medtart, Esq.

Synod of Hartwick,—Rev. Prof. Schmucker, Rev. Prof. Krauth, and Doct. Gilbert.

Synod of New-York,—Rev. B. Kurtz, J. Oswald, and Mr. Schrack.

Synod of Ohio,—Rev. J. N. Hoffman, B. Kurtz, and D. Eyster.

Synod of East-Pennsylvania,—Rev. Doct. Kurtz, F. Heyer, and H. Nixdorf, Esq.

Synod of South Carolina,—Rev. Prof. Schmucker, Rev. Prof. Krauth, and Doct. Gilbert.

Synod of Virginia,—Rev. J. N. Hoffman, J. G. Morris, and J. Medtart.

The Minutes of the "Independent German Reformed Synod of Pennsylvania," and of the "Tennessee Conference," were also presented and distributed among the members of the Synod.

Synod then adjourned to meet again at 3 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Rev. J. OSWALD.

Monday, October 28, 3 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. Mr. EYSTER.

Rev. Prof. KRAUTH, from the committee appointed to examine the proceedings of the Hartwick Synod, in New-York, reported as follows, viz :

The committee appointed to examine the Minutes of the Synod of Hartwick, beg leave to

REPORT:

That a careful examination of the Minutes of that body, convened at Schoharie, on the 20th of October, 1832, and several succeeding days, presents the following facts :—The number of ministers present was eight. The officers elected were, Rev. G. A. Lintner, President, Rev. J. D. Lawyer, Secretary, and Rev. P. Wieting, Treasurer. The parochial reports, which are very full, furnish the following results :—Baptisms of infants, 613; adults, 97; confirmations, 1,051; admitted, 29; communicants, 3,537; Sunday schools, 10; number of teachers, 19; scholars, 546.

It appears that the Synod of Hartwick has established depositories of Lutheran publications, and particularly of the books of the General Synod. The Hymn Book of the General Synod has been introduced and extensively circulated in the churches under its care. The report of the committee on the Hartwick Seminary states, that an examination of the theological students of that institution, which was attended by the committee, was very gratifying; that there were eight students in the theological department, and that they were very active in promoting the interests of religion.

A resolution was passed, recommending to the General Synod the publication of a correct and complete Life of Dr. Martin Luther.

The Proceedings of the last General Synod were examined and reported upon by a committee of the Synod, and regarded with high approbation.

It was resolved by the Synod to form itself into a Sunday School Union, auxiliary to the Union of the General Synod.

Two candidates were ordained as ministers of the gospel.

It is very apparent from the minutes of this body, that all its members are very active and warmly devoted to the General Synod, and that their congregations are in a highly flourishing condition. The large accession of communicant members, as reported, viz. 1,051 during the year, indicates the presence of the Great Redeemer in their midst, to a degree calculated to excite the most delightful emotions, and produce the conviction that their course is onward.

C. P. KRAUTH,
S. S. SCHMUCKER,
D. GILBERT.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. Doct. KURTZ, from the committee to examine the proceedings of the Synods of East-Pennsylvania and North Carolina, submitted the following report, viz :

The committee to whom were referred the Minutes of the Synods of East-Pennsylvania and North Carolina,

REPORT:

That the Synod of East-Pennsylvania was held in the year 1832, at Vomelsdorf, Berks county. The Synod consists of 50 ministers, 30 of whom were present at said meeting. The parochial reports are as follows:—Congregations, 162; baptisms, 4,324; confirmations, 1,855; communicants, 21,195; schools, 167.

Two applicants for license were received as candidates, and a missionary was appointed by the Synod to labor in the congregation of Sunbury, Pa.

The Synod of 1833 assembled at Pottsgrove, on the festival of the Trinity, and continued in session for several days. Thirty-two ordained ministers and four candidates were present at this meeting: eighteen ministers were absent. The officers chosen at this meeting are, Rev. Mr. Baker, President, Rev. Mr. Miller, Secretary, and Rev. Mr. Ulrich, Treasurer. The number of congregations reported at this meeting is 191; baptisms, 4,568; confirmations, 2,442; communicants, 23,242; schools, 159.

A resolution was adopted, expressive of the sentiments and feelings of the Synod, in consequence of the lamented death of their esteemed fellow laborer, the *Rev. C. Jaeger*.

Four applicants received licenses, and four candidates were ordained as ministers of the gospel.

The Synod of North Carolina held its session of 1832 in St. Paul's church, Lincoln county, on the 16th of May, and several succeeding days. The Synod consists of eight, ministers, five of whom attended this meeting. In the bounds of the Synod are a number of vacant congregations, who appear very desirous of obtaining ministers, and the Synod expresses its regret that they cannot be supplied. The constitution recommended by the General Synod for District Synods, was adopted at this meeting with some amendments, suited to the peculiar circumstances of the Synod.

The Synod of 1833 was held on the 2d of May, in Guilford county. The Rev. Mr. Graeber was chosen President, Rev. Mr. Artzt Secretary, and Rev. T. Lentz Treasurer. The parochial reports are as follows: Baptisms, 411; confirmations, 144; communicants, 1,994; Sunday schools, 2.

Rev. Mr. Graeber, P. Barringer, and C. Melchor, Esq., were appointed delegates from this Synod to the General Synod.

The Rev. President was requested to address a Pastoral Letter to the churches in connexion with this body.

Several conferences were also appointed to be held within the bounds of the Synod.

The Missionary Society of this Synod held its annual meeting on the 4th of May, during the session of the Synod, and a committee was appointed to make arrangements for supplying the destitute congregations belonging to the Synod with missionaries.

The next meeting of this body is to be held in St. Paul's church, Wythe county, on the last Sabbath in May.

D. KURTZ,
F. HEYER,
H. NIXDORF.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. B. KURTZ, from the committee to whom were referred the Minutes of the Synod of New-York, presented the following report :

The committee appointed to examine and report on the Minutes of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New-York, &c.,

REPORT: •

That the Synod convened pursuant to a postponement, by the Rev. President, in consequence of the prevalence of the malignant cholera, in the city of Albany, at the time specified in Resolution 17 of the last Synod ; 12 ordained ministers, and 2 Licentiates, were present at the meeting. The officers of the Synod, are Rev. Doct. Wackerhagen, President ; Rev. J. Berger, Secretary ; Rev. H. N. Pohlman, Treasurer. The whole number of ministers belonging to the Synod is 22. Of these, 14 presented their parochial reports, from which it appears, that they baptised 767 infants, and 30 adults, confirmed 222, admitted to communion 2,398. Sunday schools, 10 ; teachers, 12.

From these minutes, it also appears, that during the past year, it pleased our Heavenly Father to call to his rest, the Rev. Senior of the Ministerium, F. H. Quitman, D. D. And it was resolved, that the Synod express their deep condolence with the family of the deceased, and their high estimation of his character and services, and that the Rev. President be requested to furnish a biographical sketch of the deceased for publication in the Minutes.

It was further resolved, that Rev. Doct. Geissenhainer of New-York city, be henceforth honored as Senior of the Ministerium. A Missionary and Education committee was appointed, which is to go into operation according to a plan previously adopted by the Synod. Your committee rejoice in this act of the Synod, and hail it as the harbinger of good things.

At the Ministerial Session, the licences of two candidates were renewed, the one indefinitely, and the other till the next meeting of the Synod.

B. KURTZ,
J. OSWALD,
C. SCHRACK.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. J. G. MORRIS, from the committee to examine the Minutes of the Synod of Maryland, reported as follows, viz :

The committee appointed to examine and report on the proceedings of the Synod of Maryland, beg leave to state:

That in the Minutes of 1831, mention is made of the establishment of a religious paper, devoted to the interests of our church, entitled the "Lutheran Observer." Three works entitled "Catechumen and Communicant's Companion." The translation of "Arndts Wahres Christenthum," and a Collection of Texts of Scripture, disproving Popery, are recommended to the patronage of the Lutheran community.

In the Minutes of 1832, the Synod expresses its disapprobation of the Rev. Mr. Winder, who does not conform to our ecclesiastical usages, and pursues measures calculated to foster fanaticism. He was formerly a minister of the German Methodist, or United Brethren Church, and has since the meeting of the Synod of 1832, also abandoned our communion.

In the Minutes of 1833, the President reports the flourishing condition of those churches who are at present supplied with pastors. There are now several vacant congregations in the Synod, Sharpsburgh, Taneytown, and Winchester, but which it is expected, will shortly be supplied.

There were, at the last meeting of this body, 17 ministers in connexion with it.

The "Lutheran Observer" and "Lutheran Preacher," were recommended to the support of our people generally.

In his report, the President expresses it as his opinion, that whenever a Church connected with a Synod, calls a minister connected with another, he as a matter of course becomes a member of that Synod, with which his church is connected. As there is a difference of opinion on this subject, the committee beg leave to introduce it to this body for consideration.

The Education and Missionary Society is mentioned as being productive of great good within the bounds of this Synod. It now supports four young men at the Gettsburgh Seminary.

The President mentions the gratifying fact, that a late member of the Lutheran Church in Frederick, Mr. Scholl, has bequeathed \$500 to the Seminary.

The committee recommend the following Resolution:

Resolved, That such examples of benevolence are worthy of imitation by all the friends of our church, whom Providence hath blessed with an abundance of the goods of this world.

The officers of this Synod are, Rev. Mr. Wachter, President; Rev. J. Medtart, Secretary; Rev. J. G. Morris, Treasurer.

The parochial reports are as follows, viz:

Congregations, 48; baptisms, 1345; confirmations, 552; communicants, 4756. The license of 1 candidate was renewed at the last session of the Ministerium.

J. G. MORRIS,
J. G. SCHMUCKER,
F. SMITH.

Resolved. That the report be accepted.

It was then stated to the Synod, that inconveniences and difficulties had arisen in some parts of the church, in consequence of ministers and congregations not uniting with the respective District Synods within whose bounds they are located, and an appeal having been made to the Synod, whether such a course of proceeding was proper and consistent with the rules of our constitution; a lengthy and animated debate ensued.

After the brethren had fully expressed their views on this important subject, it was on motion of the SECRETARY,

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the District Synods in connexion with this body to adopt a uniform rule, requiring ministers and congregations to unite with the respective Synods within whose bounds they may be located.

Doct. D. GILBERT, from the committee to examine the Minutes of the Synod of South Carolina, presented the following report, viz :

The committee appointed to examine the Minutes of the "Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Carolina, and adjoining states," beg leave to

REPORT,

That this active and truly evangelical member of the Lutheran household of faith, held its Eighth Session at Sandy Run, Lexington District, South Carolina, in December 1831; at which meeting, were present 6 ordained ministers, and 1 licensed candidate; whole number of ordained ministers then belonging to the Synod, 8. Officers, Rev. J. Bachman, President; Rev. S. A. Mealy, Secretary; Rev. G. Dreher, Treasurer.

The ninth annual meeting of this Synod was held in December, 1832, at Orangeburgh District, South Carolina; and was attended by 6 ordained ministers, 1 licensed candidate and 3 licensed students of divinity; whole number of ordained ministers, 7. During the last two years, the Synod has been severely afflicted by death. The Great Shepherd visited, and took from them four of their members, viz:—Rev. Messrs. Wingard, Schwartz, Bergman and Dreher.

Your committee state with much pleasure, that this Synod has adopted the form of Church Discipline recommended by the General Synod.

In the Minutes of 1831, we find the following proceeding relative to the General Synod:

"Whereas the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church has existed for several years, and whereas this Synod, approves of a General Union of the Lutheran churches in the United States, therefore; *Resolved*, That the President of this Synod be authorised to open a correspondence with the President of the General Synod, and procure from him the constitution, and all the proceedings of that body, at as early a date as practicable; that each Minister consult his congregation, and ascertain their views on the subject of a connexion with the General Synod, and that the subject be considered at an early day, the next meeting of this body.

From the Minutes of 1832, it appears, that the President received the desired information, and communicated it to the Synod; whereupon it was *Resolved*, That the question touching the expediency of this Synod attaching itself to the General Synod, be deferred to our next meeting.

At their meeting in 1831, they took favorable notice of the Catechumens and Communicant's Companion, and appointed a committee to prepare an English Catechism, based upon the doctrines of the Augsburg Confession.

The Theological Seminary of the Synod, commenced under cheering prospects, but was impeded in its progress, by the bereavement of its well qualified and devoted Professor, Rev. J. G. Schwartz. They, however organized the Board of Directors; located the Seminary at Lexington village, and prepared some of the students for immediate usefulness in the Vineyard of the Lord, under the direction of ordained ministers appointed by the Synod.

From the parochial reports, it appears, that they have under their care 27 congregations, in which, during the two past years, 736 infants were baptised, 490 persons confirmed and 1750 admitted to the Lord's Supper. 5 new churches have been dedicated to the service of Almighty God. At their session of 1831, 5 students were licensed to preach the gospel. In 1832, 1 candidate was ordained, 1 student was licensed to preach, and 3 to exhort under the care and direction of ministers.

The members of the Synod are also actively engaged in the cause of missions. Conference meetings are frequently held by them. Sabbath schools and other benevolent operations of the day, are commendably encouraged, and it must indeed be gratifying to the friends of our cause, to perceive from all the proceedings of our brethren of South Carolina that they are so zealous and efficient in promoting the welfare of that interesting portion of our beloved Zion.

D. GILBERT,
S. S. SCHMUCKER,
C. P. KRAUTH.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. J. N. HOFFMAN, from the committee to consider and report on the proceedings of the Synod of Virginia, submitted the following report, viz :

The committee to whom were referred the Minutes of the Synod of Virginia, beg leave to state,

That from an examination of said Minutes, it appears, that the last annual meeting of the Synod was held at St. John's Church, Augusta county, Va., on the 20th of October, 1832. This meeting was attended by 6 ordained ministers and 7 laymen as representatives from congregations. 1 applicant for license was received, and it was resolved to ordain a candidate by a special meeting of the Ministerium, in his own congregation. The parochial reports, though considerably imperfect, are as follows :

Number of congregations, 24; baptisms, 468; confirmations, 184; communicants, 1976. The officers of the Synod are, Rev. M. Meyerhoeffer, President; Rev. D. J. Hauer, Secretary; Rev. J. P. Dagey, Treasurer.

J. N. HOFFMAN,
C. A. MORRIS,
J. MEDTART.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

The Rev. Mr. RYSER, from the Synod of Maryland, appeared, and was admitted as an advisory member.

Synod adjourned to meet to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by Rev. F. HEYER.

Divine service was held this evening in the church. Sermon by the SECRETARY, from Eccl. ix. 10.

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. Mr. UNGERER.

Rev. S. OSWALD, of the Synod of Virginia, and Rev. Mr. DREYER, editor of the "Evangelical Journal," York, Pa., and Mr. WALTZ, of Baltimore, were admitted as advisory members.

Some of the brethren having expressed their views on the importance of encouraging the "Lutheran Observer" and promoting the interests of the church, by giving it a more liberal support and extensive circulation; it was on motion of Rev. J. G. MORRIS,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to devise measures for extending the circulation of the Lutheran Observer, under the auspices of the Synod.

Rev. Doct. J. G. Schmucker, Rev. D. Eyster, J. N. Hoffman, F. Smith, H. Nixdorf, and J. Medtart, were appointed said committee.

The Rev. Mr. DREYER, editor of the Evangelical Journal, being desirous of receiving the countenance and support of the Synod in continuing his publication, the subject was referred to a committee, consisting of Rev. J. Oswald and Messrs. Gilbert and C. A. Morris.

Rev. N. W. GEORTNER, from the Synod of Hartwick, appeared and was admitted as an advisory member.

Rev. Doct. S. S. SCHMUCKER, from the standing committee on the Hymn Book, &c., presented the following report, viz :

The committee appointed by the Synod of 1827 to contract with printers for the publication of the Hymn Book, to superintend the sale of the successive editions, &c., beg leave to

REPORT:

I. That agreeably to the direction of the last General Synod, they have had the Hymn Book published in an 8vo form, with the Liturgy. They contracted with Messrs. Lucas and Deaver of Baltimore, for an edition of 2,000 copies, on which the Synod receives a premium of 12½ cents per copy, whilst those gentleman incurred all the risk and expenditure connected with the publication. The committee would inform the Synod, that the sale of this work has been a heavy one, and that a few hundred copies only have as yet been sold.

II. For the Catechism of the General Synod, the committee contracted with the same gentlemen for an edition of 4,000 copies, of which 2,650 have been sold, and the demand is increasing. The Synod receive a premium of 2 cents per copy on this work, whilst it is sold at the reduced price of 12½ cents, retail.

III. The new selection of German Hymns, contemplated by the last Synod, and committed to the discretion of the committee, has been stereotyped and is now in the press. The plates and blocks cost nearly \$400, for the payment of which the money is now in the hands of the committee. The profits of the Synod on this book, will depend on the price fixed upon it by the Synod, and the committee would recommend that it be 50 cents, retail.

IV. The committee would also inform the Synod, that they have, at the reiterated and general request of the brethren, reduced the price of the smaller Hymn Book to 62½ cents retail. Of the smaller edition, about 5,000 copies have been sold since the meeting of the last Synod, and the premium of the Synod is 20 cents per copy. But the establishment of the different depositories, and necessary reduction to large purchasers, necessarily consumes a portion of the profits.

V. Depositories have been established in South Carolina, North Carolina, West-Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, New-York, and one will shortly be located at Pittsburgh, to meet the increasing demand from the West.

VI. The money now in the hands of the committee is \$360; \$400 of which will be required to pay for the plates of the German Hymn Book, and the residue remains to defray the expenses of delegates from the District Synods, to publish the Minutes, and to meet any other object contemplated by the General Synod.

VII. The committee ask the opinion of the Synod as to the expediency of publishing an edition of the small Hymn Book, on inferior paper, to be sold at less than 62½ cents.

They would also state, that the desire of having the remainder of our Formula of Government and Discipline annexed to our smaller Hymn Book, has frequently been expressed, and as it would not visibly increase the size of the book, but would tend very much to give general publicity to the principles of the General Synod, and the government of District Synods, the addition would probably be highly useful.

S. S. SCHMUCKER,
J. G. MORRIS.

The report was accepted, and the following resolutions were adopted by the Synod in relation to the subjects embraced in it.

On motion of the SECRETARY,

I. *Resolved*, That Rev. Prof. Schmucker and C. A. Morris, Esq. be a committee to confer with Messrs. Lucas and Deaver, in relation to any difficulties or losses which they may have sustained in the sale of the large Hymn Book.

On motion of Rev. F. HEYER,

II. *Resolved*, That the Book committee be authorised to proceed with the publication of the German Hymn Book, as contemplated in their report, and that the retail price be fixed at 50 cents.

On motion of Rev. Doct. J. G. SCHMUCKER,

III. *Resolved*, That the remainder of the Formula for the Government and Discipline of the Church be stereotyped, and added to the small Hymn Book.

Synod adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Rev. B. KURTZ.

Tuesday, October 29, 3 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. PROF. KRAUTH.

The report of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, was then read by Rev. J. G. MORRIS. as follows:

In presenting their fourth report to your reverend body, the Board of Directors would express their most ardent gratitude to the great Head of the Church for the manifest favor with which he has crowned our infant school of the prophets. It was with a view to promote his glory that this institution was founded, and he has condescended to take it under his fostering care, and to prosper it beyond our most sanguine expectations. The Lord has done great things for us, for which our hearts would praise him. The guardian care which our exalted Saviour has exhibited towards the Seminary of the General Synod, encourages your Board to commit themselves and this institution into the same kind hands in future, and we feel assured that he will finish what he has commenced.

Your Board have regularly attended at the semi-annual examinations of the students, and can state, that the examinations evinced not only the eminent qualifications of our professors to impart instruction in every thing that is necessary to render men able ministers of the New Testament, but also satisfied us that our young brethren were industrious in the prosecution of their studies; and their progress in knowledge and ability to answer, inspire us with confidence that the Church will

not be disappointed in looking to the Seminary for pious and efficient ministers of the gospel.

Since our last report, many waste places in our beloved Zion have been rendered glad by the aid which they received from the Seminary. The following young gentlemen have left our institution within the last two years, and have, with but two or three exceptions, already entered the field, and are laboring with zeal and success in the church, viz :—Fuchs, Hesbert, Ulrich, Hoover, Skull, Oswald, Sahm, Babb, Neiser, Hoffman, Rizer, Lighter, Goertner, Ring, and Moller.

Within the last two years there have not been so many students in immediate connection with the Seminary as before. The reason is this : many young gentlemen, who are designed for the ministry in our church, have resolved to go through a full course in Pennsylvania college, and hence their entrance into the Seminary will be delayed for several years. The number of students in immediate connection with our theological institution has been, at an average, about twenty ; but the whole number of young men who have a view to the ministry in our church, and who are either in the Seminary, or pursuing their preparatory studies in connection with the college, is about sixty.

The Seminary building, which was in its incipient state when the Board made their last report, has since been finished according to contract ; and it exhibits a proud monument of the liberality and zeal of the Lutheran church, to promote an enlightened education of those who are to lead on the hosts of the Lord, against the enemies of the truth, as it is in Jesus. The library has been removed into the new edifice. The room prepared for it, is a fine capacious apartment ; the books, amounting to about 7,000 volumes, are classified and handsomely arranged in their appropriate alcoves ; they present a very handsome appearance, and give ample testimony to the indefatigable labor and good taste of our late librarian, the Rev. Dr. Hazelius. The Board feels much indebted to him for the trouble he had in removing and arranging the books of the Seminary.

At the meeting of the Board in the fall of 1832, it was resolved to build two dwelling houses for our professors, one on either side of the Seminary. The houses were contracted for, and commenced in the spring. The one intended for Dr. Schmucker, jun., is now finished ; the other, which was intended for Dr. Hazelius, is also in a state of forwardness, and will be finished in the spring. It is true the building of these houses has increased the debt of the Board ; but they have the strongest confidence that the liberality of the Lutheran church will soon free our institution of these debts, and thus show to the world that she has not changed her ancient character, and that she still is capable of appreciating the blessings of theological seminaries.

Since your last meeting, the Board appointed the Rev. Mr. Weyl as general agent to collect subscriptions for our Seminary. He spent about six months in his agency. His success was good beyond our expectations. His collections in money and subscriptions amounted to about six thousand dollars. Our ministers and people received our agent with great kindness, and evinced the most laudable willingness to further the work of his hands. Your Board believes all that is necessary to secure the most liberal patronage of the Seminary by the members of the Lutheran church, is to present to their minds the object and wants of the institution. Our past experience of the liberality of our people in giving, is the best guaranty, that in future our wants will not remain unsupplied.

The Board has made the necessary arrangements to have the subscriptions collected by proper agents as they become due. The funds of the Seminary are securely and profitably invested.

It was with feelings of regret that the Board of Directors accepted of the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Hazelius. He received a call to the Professorship of the Seminary of the Synod of South Carolina. The Board feel truly grateful for the zeal and industry with which he discharged the duties devolved upon him, while in connection with our theological institution. Your Board would send forth their most fervent ejaculations to the great Head of the Church, for his choicest blessing to descend upon and to accompany him to his new and responsible field of labor. May the Lord add many more years of usefulness to his life, and may his labors in the southern portion of our beloved Zion be eminently successful in raising up for the gospel ministry such as shall be able rightly to divide the word of life, and give every one his portion in due season.

It affords us much pleasure in being able to report, that a suitable and eminently well qualified person has been found in the Rev. C. P. Krauth, of Philadelphia, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Dr. Hazelius.

J. G. SCHMUCKER,
President of the Board.

JNO. G. MORRIS, *Secretary.*

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. Doct. J. G. SCHMUCKER, from the committee appointed on the subject of the Lutheran Observer, submitted the following report:

The committee appointed by this body to devise measures for encouraging the publication of the Lutheran Observer, as conducted by our worthy brother Benj. Kurtz, have the pleasure to

REPORT:

That they have met and taken this matter into serious consideration, and beg leave to submit to the consideration of the Synod the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, That we approve of the manner in which the Lutheran Observer has been conducted, and that we have full and entire confidence in the ability, intelligence and principles of the Rev. Mr. Kurtz, the present editor.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend the Lutheran Observer to the support of all the district synods and conferences in connection with this body, and that they be requested to use their endeavors to increase the circulation of said publication, and to assist Brother Kurtz to collect the money, which from time to time, may become due.

Resolved, That the sum of 200 dollars be paid over to Br. Kurtz, out of the funds of the General Synod, for the purpose of employing one or more agents to procure subscriptions, and for defraying other expenses, and that the said sum be refunded, without interest, whenever the income or profits of the said publication will warrant.

J. G. SCHMUCKER,
FRED. D. SMITH,
HENRY NIXDORF,
JOSHUA MEDTART,
DAVID EYSTER.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. Doct. S. S. SCHMUCKER, from the Book Committee, presented the following report:

The committee appointed by the General Synod of 1831, to make the requisite arrangements for the publication of several works, called for by the necessities of the Lutheran Church,

RESPECTFULLY REPORT:

That agreeably to the direction of said body, they delineated a plan for the several works ordered, and notified the brethren elected by the Synod, to undertake the labor. The following works have already been issued from the press:

I. The large edition of the Hymn Book, together with the Liturgy, which was prepared by the Rev. Mr. Lintner. The Liturgy was perused by the Book committee and sanctioned by them.

II. The Catechism of the General Synod has also been stereotyped and published, and the church has for eighteen months been well supplied with them.

III. It is understood, that the first volume of the translation of Arndt's True Christianity, has been completed by the Rev. Mr. Hoffman, and is ready for the press.

IV. The pocket Hymn Book in the German language, selected from the hymn book now in use, and a few additional hymns, has been prepared by the Rev. Dr. Schmucker of York, and is now passing through the press. In the course of six weeks the work will be ready for delivery to purchasers.

V. It has been found that very few of the brethren appointed, have prepared their sermons, and hence the probability is, that no other volume of this kind will be published.

VI. The Augsburg Confession, together with explanatory notes and Formula for churches, Synods and General Synod, has been prepared for the press by the Rev. S. S. Schmucker, and will be ready for delivery to purchasers in a short time. In accordance with the wishes of many brethren, the notes have been extended beyond the original design, and in order that the volume may not be too large, the historical part has, for the present, been excluded.

VII. Nothing has been done toward the preparation of the controversial work by the brethren appointed. And as there was no prospect of its publication, the individual appointed introduced the marrow of all the several controversies into his notes on the Augsburg Confession, and changed its title into that of Popular Divinity.

S. S. SCHMUCKER,
J. G. SCHMUCKER,
J. G. MORRIS.

October 26, 1833.

The report was accepted, and on motion of C. A. Morris, Esq., it was

Resolved, That the brethren engaged to furnish materials for publication in the works of the General Synod, be re-

speetfully and earnestly requested to comply with their engagements.

The Synod then adjourned to meet after divine service; this evening, at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Heyer.

Rev. Mr. Oswald, from the Synod of Virginia, preached this evening in the Lecture Room, from John vii. 6.

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 8 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. B. Kurtz.

Rev. Mr. UNGERER, minister of the United Evangelical Church at Washington stated to the Synod, that the congregation under his care, were engaged in erecting a church; but finding that they were unable to accomplish their undertaking by their own means, they were desirous of being assisted; whereupon it was

Resolved, That it be recommended to the ministers in our connexion to aid the Rev. Mr. Ungerer, in procuring funds in their respective congregations for the purpose of erecting a church for his congregation at Washington.

Synod adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. Doct. J. G. SCHMUCKER.

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the SECRETARY.

Rev. Prof. Krauth presented a collection of hymns, published by Mr. C. Dull of Philadelphia with a view of having it adopted by the Synod for the use of our Sunday schools; whereupon, on motion of Rev. Mr. Heyer, it was

Resolved, That we thankfully receive the offer of Rev. Prof. Krauth in behalf of Mr. C. Dull publisher of a collection of hymns for the use of Sunday schools, to transfer said work to the General Synod as their property.

Resolved, That this work be referred to the book committee, and that they be authorised to make such use of it as the interests of the church, in their judgment, may require.

Rev. Doct. KURTZ, from the committee appointed at

the last meeting of this body to form a constitution for the management, appropriation, &c., of the funds for the support of superannuated ministers, widows and orphans, presented the following report :

The undersigned being a committee appointed at the last meeting of the General Synod, in the year 1831, to prepare a plan for a Society for the relief of clergymen, and widows and orphans, beg leave to

REPORT :

I. That the Society shall consist of those clergymen of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in the United States, who belong to Synods in connexion with the General Synod of said church, and who shall have freely and of their own accord, fulfilled the conditions of the following plan, and shall have subscribed to its constitution.

II. The shares of said society shall consist of one hundred dollars each, which may be paid either in installments of ten dollars yearly, for ten years, or in one payment ; and if any clergyman should think even the small installment of ten dollars per year for ten years, to be beyond his means to pay, he shall be admitted to membership upon paying yearly one-fifth of the rest of the installments as they become due with interest of six per cent upon the residue until paid.

III. The Treasurer of the society shall indorse on the notes of the individual members the value of the sums received, and when fully paid, or likewise if the hundred dollars should have been paid in one sum, the said Treasurer shall give to each stockholder a certificate signed by the president of the Society and the treasurer, which certificate shall intitle the possessor to the dividend, which shall be declared by the proper officers, when the owner of said certificate shall become an Emeritus, or in case of his death, to his widow and children.

IV. If a clergyman belonging to this society shall be disabled by sickness or otherwise, he shall be entitled to receive such dividend from the funds of said society, as the state of the funds shall enable the officers to declare according to the constitution, and said dividend shall likewise be paid yearly to his widow in case of his death, and to the children until they shall have attained the years of their majority.

V. The monies received from the stockholders, are to be placed forthwith into a savings bank upon the best terms that can be obtained for the increase of the fund. In like manner shall all legacies and contributions in aid of said fund, be placed in such savings institution.

VI. The interest of the fund shall as long as no Emeritus, or widows, or children under age of clergymen belonging to this society, shall exist, be yearly added to the principal, and at no time shall the sum of the dividends exceed four-fifths of said interest ; one-fifth thereof must yearly be added to the fund.

VII. New members may be hereafter admitted by buying the certificate from old members, or by paying the sum of one hundred dollars into the treasury, and such premiums thereon, as the demand of the stock shall be worth, however the payment of the aforementioned one hundred dollars may be made in suitable installments, as No. 2.

VIII. Any clergyman may take two or three shares, if he sees fit, so to do, and in that case shall be entitled to a corresponding dividend, that is—if the dividend of one share should amount to twenty-five

dollars yearly, the person who holds three certificates, is entitled when an Emeritus, or his widow, or children not of age, to seventy-five dollars; yet it is expressly understood that no stockholder can have more than one vote in the general meeting, though he possess more than one share.

J. DANIEL KURTZ.

On motion of Rev. Doct. J. G. SCHMUCKER,

Resolved, That the report be accepted, and printed in the minutes for consideration at our next meeting.

Rev. J. G. MORRIS, offered the following Preamble and Resolution, viz:

Whereas, the subject of a union between the Lutheran and German Reformed Churches in this country, has been of late agitated in various Synods, without coming to any definite conclusion, because of a diversity of opinion that exists among the brethren as to its practicability, and expediency and as a subject so essentially affecting the interests of the Church demands the most mature deliberation; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three members from this body, be appointed to report to the next General Synod on the following subjects:

1. On the advantage or disadvantage of a union of the two churches in this country.

2. On the principal difficulties in the way of the accomplishment of a union.

3. On the specific basis of a union both as it respects doctrine, church government, and ecclesiastical usages.

After considerable discussion the preamble and resolution were adopted, and the following brethren appointed said committee, viz: Rev. J. G. Morris, Doct. J. G. Schmucker and G. A. Lintner.

Rev. Mr. OSWALD, from the committee to whom was referred the subject of Rev. Mr. Dryer's Evangelical Journal, reported as follows, viz:

The committee appointed on the subject of the Evangelical Journal, a German religious paper, published by the Rev. Mr. Dreyer, would in accordance with their own views and the opinions expressed by the brethren generally, offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Synod commend the industry and perseverance of Rev. Mr. Dreyer in sustaining his Journal under all the difficulties and embarrassments which he has experienced.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Editor of the Journal to embody more religious intelligence in his publication, and convert it into a semi-monthly paper provided such arrangements can be made as shall meet the approbation of his subscribers.

Resolved, That the Evangelical Journal be recommended to the ministers and churches in our connexion, and that they be requested to aid Rev. Mr. Dreyer in obtaining subscribers—collecting dues, and extending the circulation of this work.

J. OSWALD,
C. A. MORRIS.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Mr. C. A. MORRIS, from the committee to confer with Messrs. Lucas and Deaver on the subject of the large hymn book, reported as follows :

The committee appointed to confer with Messrs. Lucas & Deaver, the publishers of the large edition of the English Lutheran Hymn Book, beg leave to

REPORT:

That they have performed said duty. It appears that these publishers issued an edition of 2,000 copies of the book in question, at an expense of something more than \$1,000 ; that though they sell them generally at \$12 per dozen to merchants in the country, they are obliged to make a larger discount to the trade in the city, which, after deducting the premium of 12½ cents, claimed by this Synod, and other expenses, leaves them less than 37½ cents per copy ; that the sale has been very limited, amounting in all to about 400 copies.

From these facts it appears that the publication of the Hymn Book has until now not only proved an unprofitable, but a losing business to the publishers. The committee are therefore of the opinion that the publishers ought not to bear the whole loss, but that the Synod should sustain a part of it. They would therefore submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Synod release to Messrs. Lucas & Deaver the premium of 12½ cents per copy of the large Evangelical Lutheran Hymn Book published by them, on the first one thousand copies of the present edition.

Resolved, That the report be accepted, and the resolution recommended by the committee, be adopted.

On motion of Rev. Mr. HEYER, it was

Resolved, That it be recommended to the ministers and churches in our connexion to celebrate the 31st of October in each year in commemoration of the commencement of the Reformation.

On motion of Mr. C. A. MORRIS, it was

Resolved, That the hymn book committee be requested to exhibit to this body, at its next meeting a detailed statement of the publication and sale of the hymn book with a view of enabling the Synod to determine on the expediency of reducing the price of said book.

Mr. C. A. MORRIS also offered the following preamble and resolutions, viz :

Whereas there are many vacant congregations and destitute places within the bounds of the General Synod, and District Synods who are anxious to be supplied with ministers of the gospel; and whereas the present state of the Lutheran Church in the United States loudly calls for greater missionary exertions to supply her increasing wants throughout our widely extended country; Therefore

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the District Synods to continue their exertions for sending out missionaries to preach the gospel to our destitute people.

Resolved, That a standing committee consisting of one member from each synod in connexion with this body, be appointed, to be called the missionary committee, who shall submit at each meeting of this body, a report embracing all such information on the subject of missions as they shall deem important, and necessary to be published for promoting the interests of the missionary cause.

The preamble and resolutions were adopted and Rev. Doct. J. G. Schmucker, H. Graeber, D. F. Schaeffer, and G. A. Lintner, were appointed the missionary committee.

On motion of the Secretary, it was

Resolved, That the Synod attend the meeting of the Sunday School Union of this body, this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

On motion of Rev. J. G. MORRIS, it was

Resolved, That a copy of the Minutes when printed, be sent to each minister of our church in the United States, and to every lay member of this body, that six copies be sent to the Synod of the German Reformed Church of the United States; six copies to the Synod of the German Reformed Church of Pennsylvania; and that the Secretary

distribute the rest among the District Synods of our church in the different states, and in other places, according to his discretion.

Several brethren having expressed their views on the importance and practicability of a more general union of the Lutheran Church in the United States, and all being desirous of promoting such an union by every measure calculated to lead to a favorable result ; it was, on motion of the SECRETARY,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to correspond with the District Synods disconnected from this body, on the subject of a more general union of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, on the basis of our constitution.

The officers of the Synod were appointed a committee on the foregoing resolution.

The Synod then proceeded to determine the time and place of its next meeting, and it was

Resolved, That the next meeting of this body be held at York, Pa., on the second Sunday after Whitsuntide, 1835.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Heyer, it was

Resolved, That a pastoral letter to the ministers and churches in our connexion, be prepared by the President and Secretary, and published with the Minutes.

Synod then adjourned to attend Sunday School Union, at 3 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Rev. J. G. Morris.

Wednesday Oct. 30, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod pursuant to a resolution adopted in the forenoon attended the Sunday School Union.

The Synod having resumed its business, and the President being absent Rev. Doct. J. G. Schmucker was called to the chair.

On motion of Rev. J. OSWALD,

Resolved, That the German hymn book referred to in the report of the book committee, be published with a certificate from the officers of the Synod.

On motion of Mr. NIXDORF,

Resolved, That 500 copies of the Minutes be published in the English, and 200 copies in the German language.

Resolved, That Rev. PROF. KRAUTH be requested to superintend the translation and publication of the Minutes in the German language.

Synod then adjourned to meet this evening after divine service. Prayer by Rev. D. Eyster.

This evening Rev. F. Heyer of the Synod of W. Pennsylvania, preached from Matt. vii. 14.

Wednesday evening Oct. 30, 1833.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the SECRETARY.

Rev. D. EYSTER from the committee to examine the minutes of the Synod of W. Pennsylvania, reported as follows, viz :

The committee to whom were referred the minutes of the Synod of West Pennsylvania, beg leave to state,

That the eighth annual meeting of the Synod of West Pennsylvania was held at Hanover, York county, in October 1832. The Synod consists of 31 ministers and candidates ; 20 of whom were present at this meeting. It appears from the minutes that much important business was transacted during the session of the Synod, but as it is chiefly of a local nature, the committee did not consider it necessary to enter into a detail. The parochial reports are as follows :

Congregations, 121 ; infant baptisms, 2077 ; adults, 154 ; confirmations, 1377 ; communicants, 9872 ; sunday schools, 58 ; congregational schools, 66. At the ministerial meeting, 2 candidates were licensed and 1 candidate from Germany was received in connexion with this body.

The officers of the Synod are Rev. F. Heysr, president ; Rev. W. Jaeger, secretary and Rev. Mr. Heim, treasurer.

D. EYSTER,
C. A. MORRIS,
J. MEDTART.

Resolved, That the report be accepted.

Rev. B. KURTZ, from the committee to examine the Minutes of the Synod of Ohio, presented the following report, viz :

In looking over the Minutes of the Fifteenth Session of the Synod of Ohio, we noticed a resolution numbered 60, on the subject of "*new measures*," which your committee think should not be passed over in silence ; it is the following :

“Resolved, That we hereby express our disapprobation and protest against those new ways and measures, which accommodate themselves to the fanatical ‘spirit of the times,’ and hereby publicly declare our intention to remain immutably pure evangelical Lutherans in faith, form and discipline, according to the Bible and the symbolical books of the Lutheran ‘Church.’”

Your committee are happy in learning from the latter clause of this resolution, that our brethren in Ohio are determined to remain faithful to the ancient and fundamental landmarks of Lutheranism, for we are convinced that fidelity to the faith and discipline of our forefathers will not fail, under God, to perpetuate the purity of our doctrines and promote the prosperity of our church. In *this determination* we therefore cordially join them, and bid them God speed, especially as we believe one of the prominent ends for which the General Synod was established, was to preserve the purity and advance the glory of our Zion, aiming accordingly at the very object contemplated in the branch of the resolution alluded to.

With respect to the first clause of the foregoing resolution, your committee would observe, that we should have been at a loss to comprehend its import, if it were not preceded by a very long and violent preamble, couched in highly indecorous and offensive terms, against those Synods and ministers of our communion, who are charged with favoring what are called “new measures,” and hold special conferences (termed four-days meetings in the preamble,) with a view to promote revivals. The language is so exceedingly unbecoming a synod of christian ministers, and so manifestly indicative of an almost entire absence of christian charity and brotherly kindness, that we forbear making a single quotation from the preamble, and feel humbled in reflecting that such a document should ever have appeared in the Minutes of a Synod professing to be “Evangelical Lutheran.” In order, however, to vindicate the character of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the presence of the American churches, your committee would recommend the following resolutions:

I. *Resolved*, That our views differ *toto cælo* from those expressed in the preamble to Resolution No. 60, and in the first clause of that resolution as spread upon the Minutes of the 15th Session of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio, and that we entirely disavow those sentiments, and disapprove the uncourteous style in which they are expressed.

II. *Resolved*, That we deeply and painfully regret that our brethren of that Synod have so little knowledge of the character of the brethren and nature of the measures upon which they have pronounced such unqualified condemnation, and have the charity to believe that a correct acquaintance with the persons and course of procedure they have denounced, would undoubtedly have impressed them with totally different views, and elicited the expression of a diametrically opposite opinion.

III. *Resolved*, That our regret and pain in view of the sentiments embodied in said preamble, are greatly mitigated by the fact incidentally stated by one of the brethren, that the resolution alone was adopted by the Synod of Ohio, while the preamble was penned by a single individual, and found its way into the Minutes without the knowledge of the whole Synod.

IV. *Resolved*, That we continue to regard our brethren in Ohio with sentiments of high regard and unfeigned fraternal affection, and trusting that the minority opposed to the resolution in question, was both nu-

merous and respectable, we indulge the hope that after proper investigation and experience on the subject, the majority will discover their error, and avail themselves of the earliest opportunity to do justice to their own character, as well as make amends to our church at large, by cancelling the offensive preamble, and revoking the objectionable branch of the resolution.

J. N. HOFFMAN,
B. KURTZ,
D. EYSTER.

After a lengthly and interesting discussion, in which most of the brethren stated their views fully on the subjects referred to in the report of the committee, and expressed their regret and astonishment that the Synod of Ohio should thus misrepresent religious meetings and proceedings with which they seem to be wholly acquainted; the report was accepted and the resolutions adopted by the Synod.

The attention of the Synod was then called to the subject of temperance. All the brethren present appeared to feel the importance of this subject. They expressed their approbation of the formation of societies on the principle of total abstinence, and were desirous that greater exertions should be made in our churches, to aid the progress of the temperance reformation. After the sentiments and feelings of the brethren were fully expressed on this important subject, it was, on motion of the SECRETARY,

Resolved, (unanimously,) That this body feel deeply interested in the progress of the temperance reformation; that we view the efforts which are now making in different parts of the country, to promote this cause, as claiming the support and co-operation of the friends of true religion in our church; and that we earnestly recommend the formation of temperance societies to the people in our connexion.

The Synod then determined to hold a *missionary meeting* during the sitting of the next General Convention, and it was

Resolved, That the Rev. SECRETARY be requested to preach a *missionary sermon* at the next meeting of this body.

The brethren then united in singing a hymn, and having bowed with the Rev. PRESIDENT *pro tem.*, in fervent supplication to the throne of Grace for the divine blessing upon all our labors ;

The Synod adjourned to meet at the time and place appointed for the next General Convention.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the Minutes of the Seventh General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States.

G. A. LINTNER, *Secretary.*



PASTORAL ADDRESS.

*The General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
in the United States, to the Ministers and Churches in their
connexion:*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN IN THE LORD,—

From the reports of our District Synods, and other sources of information, with which we have been furnished during our present session, we are enabled at this time to communicate to you intelligence from different parts of the church, in which all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth must feel deeply interested. We begin with a subject which is daily awakening more general attention in the Lutheran church, and must ever be regarded as a primary and essential blessing among us.

Vital Religion.

Since our last convention, the God of our fathers has continued to visit our borders with the copious effusions of his Holy Spirit. He has graciously been pleased to awaken sinners under the preaching of the word, and revive his work in the hearts of his people. Although the work has not been as extensive throughout the church as could be wished, it has produced many important changes, which will be permanently and extensively useful to the cause. Individual churches have risen into activity, and whole synods have been quickened into new life and energy. The reports which we have received, exhibit a most interesting state of religion in our church. The Lord is evidently doing a great work in our midst. While some of our churches have been blessed with the special influences of the Spirit of grace, others are distinguished by seasons of precious interest. In

many places, where there is no special excitement, vital religion is successfully promoted, and its influence manifested in a spirit of devotion and zeal in the cause, hitherto unknown. Sinners are awakened and converted to God through the instrumentality of the ordinary means of grace; and although showers have not descended as copiously and powerfully as in some places, the influence of the Spirit has not been withheld, and its effects are exhibited in the silent and gradual advancement of the interests of true religion.

Throughout the church generally there is an increased attention to the means of grace. The word of God is deemed more precious, and the worship and ordinances of the church appear to excite a deeper interest in the minds of the people, than at any former period. The district conferences appointed by the different Synods for the purpose of awakening sinners and establishing believers, by the preaching of the gospel and other means of grace, are generally well attended. Prayer meetings are increasing in number and usefulness. Their importance is deeply realized by many who were formerly strangers to their blessed influence.

We advert to these things, not indeed from a spirit of vain-boasting. God forbid that we should ever be so high-minded as to forget to mourn over our own sins, and the transgressions of our people. We speak of these things with humble gratitude to the Great Head of the church, for his unmerited favors; and we communicate them to you, that you may unite with us in paying the tribute of our grateful hearts to the God of all our mercies, and that you may feel encouraged in your reliance on his gracious promises to his church.

Theological Seminaries.

The Theological Seminary of the General Synod, located at Gettysburgh, is gradually advancing in prosperity, and extending the blessings of a pious and enlightened ministry through the church. This institution was founded but a few years since, under many discouraging circumstances. There were no funds provided for its support—it was a new ex-

periment in the church—and the people generally did not realise the importance of supporting such institutions. It was however established in the confident hope, that God would bless the undertaking, and that the church would support it. In this hope, the General Synod were not disappointed. Although in the commencement we had to struggle with many difficulties, yet with the blessing of God and the persevering exertions of faithful friends, those difficulties have been overcome, and our seminary is now established upon a permanent basis diffusing its blessings far and wide. From the report of the directors it will appear, that within the last two years fifteen students have left the seminary, most of whom are already occupying posts of extensive usefulness in the church. Since our last meeting, about six thousand dollars were collected in different congregations, to meet the immediate expenses of the seminary. All the necessary buildings for the accommodation of the professors and students are nearly completed; and the board, in their last report, express their confidence that the Lutheran church will continue its liberal support of the institution, and thus evince to the world its high estimate of the blessings of a well educated ministry.

The seminary at Hartwick also continues to flourish under the auspices of the two district synods in the state of New-York, who are faithfully devoted to its interests. This is the first Lutheran seminary that was established in this country. It is liberally endowed, and affords many advantages and blessings to the churches in its vicinity. This institution has established a strong claim to the continued support of the friends of our church, and it is gratifying to perceive from the proceedings of the synods of New-York and Hartwick, that they feel so deeply interested in its welfare.

The seminary of the synod of South Carolina has struggled with great difficulties and misfortunes. When it was first established, and had just commenced its operations, it was suddenly arrested in its progress by the lamented death of its talented professor. In consequence of this afflicting dispensation of Providence, its operations were suspended

until a short time since, when another professor was chosen, who has just entered on the duties of his office. Under the care of its present learned and experienced professor, this seminary will no doubt be fully re-established, and with the divine blessing become highly useful to that distant section of our church.

The seminary of the synod of Ohio was also lately established, and is beginning to prosper. The number of students is increasing, and active exertions are making to provide for its future success and prosperity. The synod is zealously engaged in the work—the people appear willing to contribute liberally to its support, and by the united exertion of the brethren in Ohio, we have no doubt that this seminary will soon be raised to a respectable rank among the theological institutions of our country.

Under all these circumstances, our theological seminaries must be regarded with peculiar interest. Deeply sensible of their importance and usefulness, we commend them to the fostering care of the church; and we trust, that with the blessing of God, and the prayerful exertions of our people, they may continually become more eminently useful in the cause.

Missionary Cause.

A resolution was adopted, during the present session of the Synod, recommending this subject to the particular attention of the district synods, and urging them to continue their exertions for supplying the destitute portions of the church with missionaries. A committee was also appointed to procure more general information on this subject, and circulate it through the church, with a view of extending the influence of that missionary spirit, which is manifested by our brethren in different places, who are already engaged in the work.

The General Synod view our missionary operations as properly belonging to the district synods, and the voluntary associations formed for this purpose. They rejoice to hear

of the active and persevering exertions of the friends of the missionary cause within the bounds of different synods. The synods of North Carolina, West Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, have established missionary societies within their districts, whose active exertions have been productive of great good. The synods of New-York, Hartwick and South Carolina have standing missionary committees, who are very successfully engaged in promoting the objects of their appointment. The synods of East Pennsylvania and, Ohio are also using every exertion in their power to afford their feeble and destitute churches missionary assistance. But notwithstanding all these efforts, and the success which has already attended them, there is still great need of missionary exertion to supply the increasing wants of the church. There never was a period in which our church in the United States exhibited a wider field, and held out greater inducements for missionary enterprise. Scarcely a report from a synodical body within our bounds reaches us, which contains not an appeal to our christian sympathies to send out more missionaries. Hundreds of churches are calling for help, and thousands of our sheep, scattered through the waste places of our Zion, are perishing without a shepherd to lead them to a place of safety. It is indeed affecting to view the picture of their sufferings, as delineated in the reports of our missionaries, and hear their Macedonian cry, without being able to afford them relief.

We have, therefore, felt it our duty to call your attention to this subject; and we now make the appeal to every minister and member of the Lutheran church, to labor and pray that more missionaries may be sent out for the salvation of those souls who are ready to perish. We believe, that it is the duty of christians whom God hath blessed with the means, to send the preached gospel to the destitute. And we would affectionately and solemnly urge this duty upon all, who in our church, profess to love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday School Cause.

The Sunday School Union of the General Synod, was established with a view of forming a general system, by which the efforts of the friends of this cause might be concentrated so as to produce greater effect. The plan which has been adopted, embraces the General Synod as the parent institution, and the District Synods connected with it, as auxiliaries. The officers of the General Synod are also the officers of the Union. The meetings of the Union are to be held at the time and place appointed for the meeting of the General Synod, and the delegates from the District Synods to the General Synod, are also to represent the auxiliaries at the meeting of the parent institution.

At the meeting in 1831, the officers of the General Union were directed to employ a general agent for the purpose of visiting the churches in our connexion, establishing schools, explaining the objects of the Union, and procuring funds to aid it in its operations. This object, however, the officers have not been able to accomplish, and consequently, but little has been done since that meeting to promote the general objects of the Union. At the meeting, held during the present session of the General Synod, it appeared however, that a considerable number of schools were recently established, which are in successful operation. The Secretary was also directed to confer with the book committee of the General Synod on the subject of publishing a collection of hymns for the use of Sunday Schools. And a resolution was adopted, expressing a desire of the Union to co-operate with the American Sunday School Union in the circulation of German Sunday school books, for the use of our German population.

In this cause, the General Synod feel desirous that something more effectual should be done, than what its friends have hitherto been able to accomplish. It cannot be deemed necessary, that we should at this late day, point out the benefits resulting from Sunday Schools. They have been

tested by the experience and observation of the age in which we live. Christians of all denominations have participated in their benefits, and in our church their blessed influence has been sufficiently felt to awaken more general attention. We, therefore, recommend the Sunday School cause to the active co-operation of all our ministers and people, who feel an interest in the salvation of the rising generation. We consider this an object of the highest importance, and we sincerely hope, that this appeal will not be made in vain.

Religious Publications.

It must be acknowledged, that in our church in this country, the means of acquiring religious information are too much neglected. Many of our people possess a very imperfect knowledge on some of those general subjects of religion, with which every christian in this enlightened age is expected to be familiar. Some of them are not even acquainted with the distinguishing principles and doctrines of their own church. They have scarcely any relish for religious intelligence—read but few of the publications of the day, and feel not sufficiently interested in them, to support such as are even devoted to the interests of their own denomination; and were this not the case, were our people generally much more enlightened on the subject of religion, than they are; religious publications are necessary to keep up a religious feeling, and they should be constantly circulated, as long as there are souls ready to perish, and the truths of the everlasting gospel necessary to be promulgated for their salvation.

Impressed with these considerations, the General Synod have appointed a standing committee to publish from time to time such religious works, as may be deemed profitable and edifying to our community. This committee, which is called the Book Committee, has now in progress several important works, which will soon be ready for publication.

The General Synod are also very desirous of extending the circulation of the *Lutheran Observer*, a weekly religious

paper, published at Baltimore, and devoted to the interests of our church. This paper is well adapted to the wants of the church. Arrangements have been made with the Editor for its permanent establishment and general circulation; and it is recommended by the Synod, to the patronage of the church, with the hope, that every liberal hearted christian, who feels an interest in the welfare of our Zion, will encourage it by his immediate subscription. We have often been reproached, that there are no more religious publications circulated amongst us; and we must be permitted to say, that in this respect, there is a great neglect of duty in the church generally. Where is the congregation, or neighborhood, where the circulation of religious works might not be increased tenfold with the greatest advantage? Where is the minister or member of the church, who might not have done far more in this useful and necessary labor, than he has done? Let every minister and layman, therefore, who wishes to see religion flourish in our congregations, take pains to circulate the Observer. Unless this is done readily and cheerfully, we cannot expect, that it will prove as extensively useful as it might. The excellence of the work—the labors of the Editor, and the exertions of agents will be insufficient to carry it to every family that needs it—much individual labor in procuring subscribers—transmitting dues, and providing for its regular conveyance must be performed in every congregation, before all the good, that may arise from this publication, can be realized.

Temperance Cause.

The interest excited in favor of this cause, is daily becoming more general among christians of all denominations; and it is to be lamented, that in our church, there is not a greater and more universal attention to it. We have experienced enough of the evils of intemperance, to feel as deeply interested in the progress of the temperance reformation as any other christian denomination. In some places this monster has made fearful havoc in our churches. This

moral desolation is still spreading through our borders, carrying misery and death in its way. Most of the cases of discipline which have occurred among us, have proceeded from intemperance. Members of the church, and even ministers of the gospel, who might have been eminently useful in the cause, have fallen victims to this vice. These things we should consider sufficient to rouse the church to a sense of its duty in relation to this subject. Some of our members, we rejoice to hear, are actively engaged in this work. It is desirable, that their number should increase, and that all the friends of true religion in our church, should give their countenance and support to this cause. We regard the temperance reformation, as one of the noblest and best efforts that christians have ever made for the salvation of sinners, and earnestly do we recommend it to the prayers and co-operation of our people.

Conclusion.

Finally, we have all reason to humble ourselves before God, that under all the gracious dealings of his Providence and Spirit with us, we have done so little for his cause.—But while we mourn over our past errors and offences, let us endeavor, by the assistance of his grace, to be more faithful for the future. Let the ministers of the word dedicate themselves anew to the service of their Great Master, and seek to promote his glory, by a diligent and enlightened discharge of their duty. Let the people labor together with their ministers, and faithfully encourage them in every good work. Let the whole body of believers in all our churches, by their united prayers and exertions, contribute the full measure of their influence, in promoting the work of the Lord. While we thank God, for the displays of his marvellous power and grace, in the salvation of many souls that have been gathered into the church, let us not be unmindful of our duty to those, who are still living without God in the world. And when we see so many fields already white for

the harvest, let us pray the Lord, to send out more laborers, that the blessed opportunity of gathering this rich harvest of souls may not be lost for ever. By order of the General Synod.

D. F. SCHAEFFER, *President.*

G. A. LINTNER, *Secretary.*

Baltimore, October 30, 1833.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

*Of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
in the United States.*

Pursuant to the Constitution, the Union met in the English Evangelical Lutheran Church, at Baltimore, October 30, 1833.

The President being absent, the Rev. Doct. J. G SCHMUCKER was called to the chair.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. PRESIDENT pro tem.

The proceedings of the last meeting were then read by the Recording Secretary.

In the absence of the Corresponding secretary, a verbal report was made by the Recording secretary, who stated that, pursuant to a resolution adopted at the last meeting, requesting the officers of the Union to employ an agent to engage in the service of the Union, he in connexion with the other officers, had used their exertions to procure an agent to engage in the work contemplated in the resolution of the last meeting ; but that in this attempt they had failed, and that, consequently, but little had been done since our last meeting to extend and promote the operations of the Union. He further stated, that the Synod of Hartwick, since the last meeting, had formed itself into an auxiliary Union, and was attending to the important objects of the Union within their bounds ; that Sunday schools were now very generally established, and that the number of scholars and teachers was increasing within the bounds of the Union. The Recording secretary concluded his statement by urging the brethren engaged in this cause to renewed exertion, and expressing a hope that the blessings of God might continue to descend upon our labors for the salvation of the rising generation.

On motion of Rev. J. G. MORRIS, seconded by Rev. F. HEYER,

Resolved, That the report of the Recording secretary be accepted, and embodied in the Minutes.

The Treasurer then submitted his report, from which it appeared that since our last meeting, he had received from a legacy in Germany to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States \$200, and from sundry individuals and churches, \$195.12½ ; amounting in the whole to \$395.12½.

Of this amount, he paid for books, printing, wood-cuts and other expenses, \$292.55½; leaving in his hands \$103.16.

On motion of the RECORDING SECRETARY, it was

Resolved, that the report of the treasurer be accepted, and that the balance in his hands be appropriated towards the payment of an account in Philadelphia, and other expenses, as the Union shall direct.

On motion of Rev. F. HEYER, it was

Resolved, That the Recording secretary be directed to confer with the book committee of the General Synod, and request them to transfer to the Union a collection of Hymns published by Mr. Dull, of Philadelphia, for the use of Sunday schools, and which was referred to them during the present session of the Synod.

The Union having been informed that the American Sunday School Union had engaged in the publication of German Sunday school books, adapted to the wants of a large portion of our German population, it was

Resolved, That this Union are desirous of co-operating with the American Sunday School Union in promoting the circulation of German Sunday school books within our bounds, and that the Recording secretary be requested to communicate this resolution to said Union.

The Union deeming it important that a *Sunday school meeting*, with appropriate religious exercises, should be held at the next meeting of the General Synod, it was

Resolved, That Rev. PROF. KRAUTH, of the theological seminary at Gettysburgh, be requested to deliver a discourse before the Sunday School Union at the next convention of the General Synod.

The Union then adjourned to the time and place of its next meeting. Concluding prayer by Rev. J. G. Morris.

G. A. LINTNER, *Rec. Sec.*

Baltimore, October 30, 1833.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Of the General Synod.

Religious Works.

Resolved, That a committee of five clergymen be appointed to be called the *Book Committee*, to delineate more fully the plan of those religious works which shall be published, and distribute the editorial labor among the brethren elected by this body, as much reference as possible being had to the predilection of the individuals themselves.

Resolved, That whenever any brother has completed the work which he has undertaken, he shall transmit it to the book committee, who shall carefully examine it. If a majority of the committee shall judge the work to be well executed, they shall furnish the author with a certificate, authorising him to publish it under the sanction of the General Synod.

Resolved, That in those cases in which the authorship of a work is divided between several brethren, those brethren shall confer together and make arrangements for its publication.

Adopted November 1, 1831.

Relief of Superannuated Ministers, &c.

Resolved, That one-half of the profits of those works to be published with the sanction of the General Synod, after having been approved by the book committee, shall be paid into the treasury of the General Synod, to constitute a fund for the relief of superannuated ministers, belonging to the Synods in connexion with this body, and their widows and orphans.

Adopted November 1, 1831.

Travelling Expenses of Delegates from District Synods.

Resolved, That the delegates from the District Synods to this body be allowed their actual expenses to and from this Synod, not exceeding five dollars for every hundred miles.

Adopted November 2, 1831.

Missions.

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the District Synods to continue their exertions for sending out missionaries to preach the gospel to our destitute people.

Resolved, That a standing committee, consisting of one member from each Synod in connexion with this body, be appointed, to be called the Missionary Committee, who shall submit, at each meeting of this body, a report embracing all such information as they shall deem important and necessary to be published for promoting the interests of the missionary cause.

Adopted October 30, 1833.

District Synods.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the District Synods connected with this body, to adopt a uniform rule, requiring ministers and congregations to unite with the respective Synods within whose bounds they may be located.

Adopted October 30, 1833.

Festival of the Reformation.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the ministers and churches in our connexion to celebrate the 31st of October in each year, in commemoration of the commencement of the Reformation.

Adopted October 30, 1833.

Temperance.

Resolved, That this body feels deeply interested in the progress of the temperance reformation; that we view the efforts which are now making in different parts of the country to promote this course as claiming the support and co-operation of the friends of true religion in our church, and that we earnestly recommend the formation of temperance societies to the people in our connexion.

Adopted October 30, 1833.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Of the General Synod.

Committee of Foreign Correspondence.

Rev. J. D. Kurtz, D. D., Baltimore,
Rev. J. G. Schmucker, D. D., York, Pa.

Hymn Book Committee.

Rev. S. S. Schmucker, D. D., Gettysburgh, Pa.
Rev. J. G. Schmucker, D. D. York, Pa.
Rev. G. Shober, Salem, N. C.
Rev. C. P. Krauth, Gettysburgh, Pa.
Rev. J. G. Morris, Baltimore.

Editing Committee.

Rev. J. D. Kurtz, D. D., Baltimore.
Rev. J. G. Schmucker, D. D., York, Pa.
Rev. E. L. Hazelius, D. D., Lexington S. C.
Rev. S. S. Schmucker, D. D., Gettysburgh, Pa.
Rev. G. B. Miller, Hartwick, N. Y.
Rev. J. Backman, Charleston, S. C.
Rev. W. Schmid, Canton, Ohio,
Rev. G. Shober, Salem, N. C.
Rev. C. P. Krauth, Gettysburgh, Pa.
Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, Frederick, Md.
Rev. G. A. Lintner, Schoharie, N. Y.
Rev. J. N. Hoffman, Chambersburgh, Pa.
Rev. J. G. Morris, Baltimore,
Rev. C. Hinckel, Ohio,
Rev. J. C. Baker, Lancaster, Pa.

Book Committee.

Rev. S. S. Schmucker, D. D., Gettysburgh, Pa.
Rev. J. G. Schmucker, D. D., York, Pa.
Rev. E. L. Hazelius, D. D., Lexington, S. C.
Rev. J. G. Morris, Baltimore,
Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, Frederick, Md.

Missionary Committee.

Rev. J. G. Schmucker, D. D., York, Pa.

Rev. H. Graeber, Lincoln, N. C.

Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, Frederick, Md.

Rev. G. A. Lintner, Schoharie, N. Y.

*Committee of Correspondence with District Synods not connected with
the General Synod.*

Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, Frederick, Md.

Rev. G. A. Lintner, Schoharie, N. Y.

C. A. Morris, Esq., York, Pa.

STATISTICS

*Of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States,
for the year 1833.*

GENERAL SYNOD.

Officers.

President, Rev. David F. Schaeffer, Frederick, Md

Secretary, Rev. George A. Lintner, Schoharie, N. Y.

Treasurer, Charles A. Morris, York, Pa.

This body is composed of delegates from the District Synods, and meets biennially. Next convention to be held at York, Pa., on the second Sunday after Whitsuntide, 1835.

SYNOD OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA.

Officers.

Senior, Rev. F. D. Schaeffer, D. D., Philadelphia.

President, Rev. J. C. Baker, Lancaster,

Secretary, Rev. J. Miller, Reading.

Treasurer, Rev. Mr. Ulrich, Tulpehocken, Pa.

Congregations, 191; ministers, 51; baptisms, 4,563; confirmations, 2,442; communicants, 23,242.

SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

Officers.

Senior, Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, D. D., New-York.

President, Rev. Augustus Wackerhagen, D. D., Clermont.

Secretary, Rev. Jacob Berger, Ghent.

Treasurer, Rev. Henry N. Pohlman, N. Germantown, N. J.

Ministers, 22; congregations, 25; baptisms, 797; confirmations, 222; communicants, 3,398; Sunday schools, 10; teachers, 12.

Next meeting at Palatine, Montgomery co., Sept. 1834.

SYNOD OF OHIO.

Officers.

President, Rev. A. Henkel, Germantown, Ohio.

Secretary, Rev. C. G. Schweitzerbarth, Zenienople, Pa.

Treasurer, Rev. J. Wagenhals, New-Lancaster, Ohio.

Ministers, 30 ; licentiates, 6 ; congregations, 130 ; baptisms, 2,172 ; confirmations, 720 : communicants, 9,000.

SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Officers.

President, Rev. H. Graeber, Lincoln county.

Secretary, Rev. W. Artz, Orange county.

Treasurer, Rev. T. Lintz.

Ministers, 12 ; congregations, 33 ; baptisms, 411 ; confirmations, 144 ; communicants, 2,000.

Next meeting, Wythe county, Va., May, 1834.

SYNOD OF MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA.

Officers.

President, Rev. M. Wachter, Frederick, Md.

Secretary, Rev. J. Medtart, Martinsburgh, Va.

Treasurer, Rev. J. G. Morris, Baltimore.

Ministers, 17 ; congregations, 48 ; baptisms, 1,345 ; confirmations, 552 ; communicants, 4,756.

SYNOD OF WEST PENNSYLVANIA.

Officers.

President, Rev. F. Heyer, Somerset, Pa.

Secretary, Rev. W. Jaeger, Bedford county.

Treasurer Rev. W. Heim, Landisburgh, Perry county.

Ministers, 31 ; congregations, 121 ; baptisms, 2,077 ; confirmations, 1,377 ; communicants, 9,872 ; Sunday schools, 66 ; congregational schools, 58.

SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Officers.

President, Rev. J. Bachman, Charleston, S. C.

Secretary, Rev. S. A. Mealy, Savannah, Ga.

Treasurer, Rev. G. Dreher, Lexington, S. C.

Ministers, 7 ; congregations, 27 ; baptisms, 736 ; confirmations, 490 ; communicants, 1,752.

HARTWICK SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

Officers.

President, Rev. A. Crownse, Guilderland.

Secretary, Rev. J. D. Lawyer, Sandlake.

Treasurer, Rev. D. Eyster, Dansville.

Ministers, 15 ; congregations, 36 ; baptisms, 613 ; confirmations, 1051 ; communicants, 3,537.

Next meeting of the Synod at Guilderland, Albany county, in Sept. 1834.

SYNOD OF VIRGINIA.

Officers.

President, Rev. M. Meyerhaeffer.

Secretary, Rev. D. J. Hauer.

Treasurer, J. P. Dagey.

Ministers, 6 ; congregations, 24 ; baptisms, 463 ; confirmations, 184 ; communicants, 1,976.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

Officers.

President, Rev. David F. Schaeffer, Frederick, Md.

Recording Secretary, Rev. George A. Lintner, Schoharie, N. Y.

Treasurer, C. A. Morris, York, Pa.

Corresponding Secretary, Rev. S. S. Schmucker, Gettysburgh, Pa.

The Union meets at the time and place fixed for the next biennial convention of the General Synod.

MISSIONARY AND EDUCATION SOCIETIES OF THE EVAN. LUTH. CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Society of North Carolina and Adjacent States. Formed May 7, 1823.

OFFICERS.

President, Rev. D. P. Rosenmiller, Germantown, N. C.

Vice-Presidents, Rev. G. Shober, Salem.

Rev. D. Scherer, Cabarrus.

C. Volger, Esq.

C. Brown, Esq.

Secretary, Rev. W. Artz, Orange county.

Treasurer, Rev. D. Scherer, Cabarrus.

12 Directors.

Parent Domestic Missionary and Education Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland and Virginia. Formed Oct. 20, 1823.

OFFICERS.

- President*, George Hager, Esq., Baltimore.
Vice-Presidents, Rev. Doct. Kurtz, Baltimore.
 Rev. B. Kurtz, Chambersburgh.
 Rev. A. Reck, Frederick, Md.
 J. Schryock, Esq., Hagerstown.
Recording Secretary, Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, Frederick, Md.
Treasurer, Lewis Medtart, Esq., Frederick.
Corresponding Secretary, Rev. J. G. Morris, Baltimore.
 20 Managers.

Society meets annually at the time and place fixed for the meeting of the Synod of Maryland.

Missionary and Education Society of the Synod of West Pennsylvania.

OFFICERS.

- President*, Hon. J. A. Schultze, Carlisle.
Vice-Presidents, Rev. Doct. Schmucker, York.
 Rev. J. Ruthrauf, Greencastle.
Secretaries, Rev. F. Heyer, Somerset.
 Rev. N. G. Sharretts, Indiana.
Treasurer, Rev. J. W. Heim.

Annual meetings of the Society at the time and place fixed for the meeting of the Synod.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

Hartwick Seminary, Otsego County, N. Y. Founded in 1815.

- Rev. G. B. MILLER, Principal.
 Rev. H. J. SMITH, Assistant Teacher.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Officers.

- Rev. Augustus Wackerhagen, Clermont, President.
 R. Campbell, Esq. Cooperstown, Secretary.
 J. Clark, Hartwick. Treasurer.
 W. C. Bouck, Esq., Schoharie, Agent.

Members.

- Rev. F. G. Mayer, Albany,
 Rev. G. A. Lintner, Schoharie,

Rev. G. A. Lintner, Schoharie,
 Rev. J. D. Lawyer, Sandlake,
 D. Simmons, Esq. Brunswick,
 P. N. Bonesteel, Esq. Rhinebeck,
 A. Metcalf, Esq. Otsego,
 J. C. Moeller, Esq. Sharon,
 S. Nelson, Esq. Cooperstown.

Theological Seminary of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, Gettysburgh, Pa. Founded in 1825.

Rev. SAMUEL S. SCHMUCKER, D. D., Professor of Didactic, Polemic and Pastoral Theology and Pulpit Eloquence.
 Rev. CHARLES P. KRAUTH, Professor of Sacred Literature, Ecclesiastical History, &c.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Officers.

Rev. J. G. Schmucker, D. D., York, Pa., President.
 Rev. D. F. Schaeffer, Frederick, Md., Vice-President.
 Rev. J. G. Morris, Baltimore, Secretary.
 C. A. Morris, Esq., York, Pa., Treasurer.

Members.

Rev. F. Ruthrauf, Sen., Greencastle, Pa.
 Rev. E. Keller,
 Rev. J. Bager,
 Rev. A. Reck, Frederick, Md.
 Doct. D. Gilbert,
 Rev. G. Shober, Salem, N. C.
 Rev. W. Artz, Orange county, N. C.
 Rev. D. P. Rosenmiller, Germantown, N. C.
 Mr. G. Throstle,
 Mr. L. Medtart, Frederick, Md.
 Mr. C. Melchior, N. C.
 Mr. G. Vogler, N. C.

Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Ohio, Canton Ohio. Founded in 1830.

Rev. W. SCHMID, Professor of Christian Theology.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Rev. A. Henkel, Germantown,
 Rev. J. Leist, Pickaway county,
 Rev. C. G. Schweitzerbarth, Zelenople,
 Rev. J. Wagenhals, Centreville,

Mr. Augustus Swan,
 Mr. Christian Heyl,
 Mr. John Leist,
 Mr. F. A. Schneider.

Theological Seminary of the Synod of South Carolina.

Rev. E. L. HAZELIUS, D. D., Professor of Christian Theology.

This Seminary was established by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Carolina, in 1829.

Rev. J. G. SCHWARTZ was elected Professor of Theology, and a Board of Directors chosen to superintend the affairs of the Seminary.

The professorship was since vacated, by the lamented death of Rev. Mr. SCHWARTZ, and Rev. Doct. HAZELIUS chosen to fill the station.

The Seminary is now in full operation under the care of Rev. Doct. Hazelius and a Board of Directors, whose names we have not learned.

CONSTITUTION

Of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of North-America.

Translated from the original German copy.

JESUS CHRIST, the Supreme Head of His Church, having prescribed no entire specific directory for government and discipline, and every section of his church being left at full liberty to make such regulations to that effect, as may be most adapted to its situation and circumstances, therefore—Relying upon God our Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God, for the promotion of the practice of brotherly love, to the furtherance of Christian concord, to the firm establishment and continuance of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace—We, the Deputies of the “German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania and the neighboring States,” of the “German and English Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the State of North Carolina and the bordering States,” of the “Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium in the State of New-York, and the neighboring States and Countries,” and of the “Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland and Virginia, &c.,” for ourselves and successors, do adopt the following fundamental articles, viz :

ARTICLE I.

The name, style and title of this Convention shall be, “*The Evangelical Lutheran General Synod of the United States of North America.*”

ARTICLE II.

The General Synod shall consist of the Deputies from the several Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conventions in the United States, who may join themselves thereunto, and be duly acknowledged as members thereof, in the following ratio, namely :

Every Synodal body, or Synod, (whether of Ministers only, or of Ministers and Lay Deputies together,) containing six Ministers, may send one; if it contains fourteen, two; if twenty-five, three; if forty,

four; if sixty, five; and if it contain eighty-six Ministers or upwards, six Deputies, of the rank of ordained Ministers, and an equal number of Lay Deputies.

Each Deputy, appearing in the General Synod according to this ratio, shall, except as hereinafter provided, enjoy an equal right and vote with all others. Every Synod may choose its Deputies in such a way and manner as to them may seem proper; and shall pay the travelling expenses of the same, to and from the General Synod, until the General Synod shall have established for itself a treasury from which the future expenses may be discharged.

ARTICLE III.

The business of the General Synod shall be as follows, namely :

SEC. I. The General Synod shall examine the Proceedings of the several Synods and Ministeriums belonging to this association, in order that they may obtain some knowledge of the existing state and condition of the Church. The several Synods, therefore, shall transmit as many copies of their proceedings to the General Synod, as there shall be members contained in the General Synod.

SEC. II. With regard to all *books* and *writings* proposed for public use in the church, the General Synod shall act as a joint committee of the special Synods and Ministeriums, after the following manner, viz.

1. The General Synod shall examine all books and writings, such as catechisms, forms of liturgy, collections of hymns, or confessions of faith, proposed by the special synods for public use, and give their well considered advice, counsel or opinion concerning the same. No synod, therefore, and no ministerium, standing in connexion with this General Synod, shall set forth any new book or writing of the kind above mentioned, for public use in the church, without having previously transmitted a full and complete copy thereof to the General Synod, for the purpose of receiving their said advice, counsel or opinion.

2. Whenever the General Synod shall deem it proper or necessary, they may propose to the special synods or ministeriums new books or writings of the kind mentioned above, for general or special public use. Every proposal of the kind, the several or respective synods and ministeriums shall duly consider, and if they, or any one of them, shall be of opinion that the said book or books, writing or writings, will not conduce to the end proposed, then, and in such a case, it is hoped, that the reasons of such opinion will be transmitted to the next convention of the General Synod, in order that the same may be entered on their journal.

3. But no General Synod can be allowed to possess or arrogate unto itself, “the power of *prescribing* among us *uniform ceremonies of religion* for every part of the church;” or to introduce such alterations in matters appertaining to the faith, or to the mode of publishing the gospel of Jesus Christ, (the Son of God and ground of our faith and hope) as might in any way tend to burden the consciences of the brethren in Christ.

SEC. III. If hereafter twenty-five ministers, dwelling together within a certain marked boundary, fifteen of whom being ordained ministers, shall apply to the General Synod for permission to create within themselves a special ministerium, and the synod or ministerium to which they have previously belonged, do not, upon due notice given of their intention so to apply, make any serious or important objection, then the General Synod shall have power to grant the permission; and if within the bounds of a whole state no special synod or ministerium shall yet have existed, and six ordained ministers residing therein shall apply for permission to create within themselves a special ministerium, the General Synod shall authorize the establishment of a new synod and ministerium within the said state. But until the permission or authority be thus formally conceded, no Deputies of a new synod or ministerium shall be acknowledged to have a seat and vote in the General Synod.

SEC. IV. With regard to the grades in the ministry, the General Synod may give to the several ministeriums well considered advice, wherein the circumstances of time, place and condition must be duly contemplated, and a beneficial uniformity, and actual equality, of rank among the several ministers, must, as much as possible, be had in view. The General Synod shall also advise such rules and regulations among the several synods and ministeriums, as may prevent unpleasant and unfriendly collisions, that might otherwise arise out of any difference of grades existing among them, or from any whatever other possible causes.

SEC. V. The General Synod shall not be looked upon as a tribunal of appeal; it may, however, be employed in the following cases, and after the following manner:

1. The General Synod may give advice or opinion, when complaints shall be brought before them, by whole synods, ministeriums, congregations, or individual ministers, concerning doctrine or discipline. They shall, however, be extremely careful, that the consciences of ministers of the gospel be not burdened with human inventions, laws or devices, and that no one be oppressed by reason of differences of opinion on non-fundamental doctrine.

2. If parties, differing in matters of doctrine and discipline, refer the cause of difference, in a brotherly manner, to the General Synod, they shall institute a close and exact scrutiny and examination thereof, and give their opinion on the subject of difference, according to their best insight of right, equity, brotherly love, and truth.

3. If difference between synods be referred, the votes thereon shall be taken by synods, and the referring synods shall have no vote.

SEC. VI. The General Synod may devise plans for seminaries of education and missionary institutions, as well as for the aid of poor ministers, and the widows and orphans of poor ministers, and endeavor, with the help of God, to carry them into effect.

SEC. VII. The General Synod may also institute and create a treasury, for the effectual advancement of its purposes.

SEC. VIII. The General Synod shall apply all their powers, their prayers and their means, towards the prevention of schisms among us, to be sedulously and incessantly regardful of the circumstances of the times, and of every casual rise and progress of unity of sentiment among christians in general, in order that the blessed opportunities to promote concord and unity, and the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, may not pass by neglected and unavailing.

ARTICLE IV.

The General Synod shall choose from among their own number a president and a secretary ; and from among their own number or elsewhere, as soon as it may be necessary, a treasurer. They shall continue in office until the next succeeding convention. The same person is at all times re-eligible as secretary or treasurer ; but no one may be elected president more than two conventions in succession, and the same person cannot thereafter be elected for the two successively following conventions.

SEC. I. The president shall act as chairman of the convention. He may make motions, give his opinion, and vote like every other member. With the consent and concurrence of the minister of the place where the convention is held, he shall appoint the several preachers during the convention. He shall subscribe all letters, written advices, resolutions and proceedings of the Synod. In extraordinary cases, and by request of any one of the acknowledged synods, made known to him in the form of a synodical or ministerial resolution, he may call together special conventions of the General Synod. In case the business of the secretary become too burdensome for one person to execute, he shall, with

the concurrence of the secretary, appoint an assistant secretary, and make known to him what portion of the labors he ought to undertake.

SEC. II. The secretary shall keep a journal of the proceedings, write, attest, take care of all the documents and writings make known the time and place of the convention, by the medium of the public prints, at least three months beforehand, and, in the special or extraordinary cases mentioned in the foregoing section, he shall give written notice thereof to each of the special synods or ministeriums.

SEC. III. If the president or secretary, in the intermediate time between the conventions, depart this life, resign his office, or become incapable of executing the same, the next in office shall take his place and perform his duties; if it be the treasurer, then the president shall appoint another treasurer *ad interim* in his stead.

SEC. IV. The treasurer shall keep account of the receipts and expenditures of the Synod. He shall give receipts for all monies put into his hands. He shall not pay any monies out of his hands but by order of the president, attested by the secretary, in pursuance of a resolution of the Synod to that effect. At every convention of the Synod he shall render account. •

ARTICLE V.

The course of business shall be conducted as follows, viz :

1. The deputies shall give personal notice of their arrival to the minister of the place, or if the congregation be vacant of a minister, to any other person appointed by the congregation for the purpose, who shall make known to them their place of residence, and the place where the sessions shall be held.

2. At nine o'clock in the forenoon of the first week-day of the time of convocation, the sessions shall begin and be opened with prayer.

3. The president elected by the former convention, shall act as chairman till another president be chosen. In case of his absence, the persons present may, on motion made and seconded, appoint another in his stead.

4. The members shall give in to the chairman their attestations or certificates. For all the deputies from any one particular synod, one certificate, signed by the president and attested by the secretary of that synod, shall be deemed sufficient, and all the members of the same synod shall sit together.

5. If a majority of the deputies of a majority of the synods attached to the General Synod, be present, the business shall go on. If this

proportion be lacking, the members present may, from time to time, postpone the sessions of the convention.

6. The president, secretary and treasurer shall be elected by ballot, on the first day of the sessions, and so soon as the members shall have given in their certificates.

7. The proceedings of the former convention shall be read by the secretary.

8. Hereupon follow the several portions of business according to Article 3, section for section.

9. Now other mixed motions may be made, concerning the subjects already discussed, or any other matters that may occur.

10. In conclusion, the General Synod shall appoint, by ballot, the time and place of the next convention, observing at all times, however, that one convention, at least, be held every three years.

ARTICLE VI.

The General Synod may make whatever by-laws they may deem necessary, provided only, that the said by-laws do not contradict the spirit of the constitution.

ARTICLE VII.

No alteration of this constitution may be made except by the consent of two-thirds of the synods attached to this convention; notice of the intended alteration having been given to the said synods at least two years previous to the final adoption thereof.

Signed October 24th, in the year of our Lord 1820.

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| J. G. SCHMUCKER, | } <i>Of Pennsylvania.</i> |
| GEO. LOCHMAN, | |
| CHRISTIAN ENDRESS, | |
| F. W. GEISSENHAINER, | |
| H. A. MUHLENBERG, | |
| CHR. KUNKEL, | |
| WM. HENSEL, | } <i>Of New-York.</i> |
| PETER STICHTER, | |
| PH. F. MAYER, | } <i>Of North Carolina</i> |
| F. C. SCHAEFFER, | |
| GOTTL. SCHOBER, | } <i>Of Maryland.</i> |
| PETER SCHMUCKER, | |
| DAVID KURTZ, | |
| D. F. SCHAEFFER, | |
| GEO. SCHRYOCK, | |

CONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT SYNODS.

CHAPTER VIII. * OF SYNODS.

SEC. I. It was found necessary and profitable in the primitive church, to have an occasional meeting of different individual churches, for the purpose of consultation and mutual encouragement, in preserving their purity and promoting their welfare.† This apostolical custom is retained in the Lutheran Church, under the name of Conference, Synod and General Synod.

II. A synod consists of all the ministers and licensed candidates, and an equal number of lay delegates, within a certain district.

III. The number of lay-votes can never exceed that of the ordained clergymen and licentiates: and if a lay-delegate be present from a district from which there is no minister present in the Synod, he shall have a seat and the liberty of speech, but no vote.

IV. It shall be the duty of each synod, to see that the rules of government and discipline prescribed in this Formula, are observed by all the congregations and ministers within their bounds, to receive appeals from decisions of church-councils, and of Special Conferences when regularly brought before them, and review and reverse or confirm the decisions to which they refer; to examine and decide on all charges against ministers and licentiates, that of heterodoxy alone excepted; to form and change ministerial districts; to attend to any business relating to their churches, which is regularly brought before them, to provide supplies for destitute congregations, and to devise and execute all suitable measures for the promotion of piety and the general prosperity of the church, not otherwise disposed of in this Formula.

V. To this end the Synod and Ministerium shall have power to cite any church-members within their bounds to appear before them; and to endeavor to obtain other witnesses, when the case may require it.

VI. If any congregation, hitherto in connexion with a Synod, should refuse to observe the resolutions of said Synod, or the provisions of

* As the directory for the government of individual congregations, already published, and this Constitution for Synods and that of the General Synod, are parts of one entire system of Lutheran Church government, the Chapters are numbered as a continuation of the former part.

† Acts xv, 2, 6, 22, 23—25. Acts xi, 22, 30. xxi, 17, 18. Acts vi.

this Formula, it shall be excluded from connexion from said Synod during the time of its refusal; nor shall any other Synod, nor any Lutheran minister or licentiate, take charge of it without special permission of the President. Provided, however, that if the charter of an incorporated congregation be at variance with any articles of this Formula, said charter shall have precedence of those articles with which it is in conflict.

VII. Any congregation may become connected with the Synod within whose bounds it is situated, by acceding to the provisions of this Formula, and making some annual contribution towards defraying the necessary expenses of said Synod. For this purpose an annual collection ought to be held in each congregation.

VIII. At least one meeting of each Synod shall be held every year, at such time and place as may have been determined on.

IX. No minister or licentiate shall be absent from the meeting of the Synod without the most urgent necessity. In case of his absence, he shall, if possible, send to the Synod a written apology, for his absence. Voluntary ministerial engagements shall not be regarded as a sufficient excuse. Any minister or licentiate violating the provision of this section, shall be called to account by the President at the next meeting.

X. These written apologies, as well as all other letters and papers intended for the Synod or Ministerium, ought to be addressed to the President.

XI. The minister of the place in which the Synod is held, with the church council, shall endeavour to provide for the entertainment of the ministers, candidates and lay-delegates by christian friends.

XII. All the members of the Synod shall endeavor to assemble on the evening preceeding the day appointed.

XIII. Divine worship shall be celebrated, during the meeting of the Synod, as often as may be convenient. and consistent with the business of the Synod.

XIV. Ministers in good standing in other Synods, or in any sister churches, who may happen to be present, or who appear as delegates from said bodies, may be received as advisory members, but cannot vote in any decisions of the Synod.

CHAPTER IX.

OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD.

SEC. 1. The officers of each Synod shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer, who are also the officers of the Ministerium.

II. All these officers are annually chosen by ballot, from among the ordained ministers regularly belonging to the Synod, by a majority of the votes of the ministers, licentiates and lay-delegates present. The same persons shall not be eligible for more than three successive years.

President.

III. The President shall deliver a synodical discourse at the meeting of every synod: and he shall, in connexion with the pastor of the place, appoint the other individuals who are to preach during the session.

IV. He shall at the beginning of every Synod, make a written report of all the official business transacted and letters received by him since the last meeting, and of all the important events which have occurred relating to his Synod, and may recommend for their consideration any measures, which he may deem necessary or calculated to promote the cause of God. This report shall be laid on the table, and dealt with as with all other papers coming before the body.

V. He presides at all the meetings of the Synod and Ministerium.

VI. The President has a right to take part in the discussions as well as any other member. When the house is equally divided on any question, he has the casting vote. In all other cases he has no suffrage, except when an election is made by ballot, and then he has not the casting vote.

VII. The President shall preserve order, not suffer more than one member to speak at a time, secure to each person liberty to speak without interruption from others, and shall prevent a speaker from deviating from the subject before the house.

VIII. The President shall take care that each subject be duly considered before a decision be made. He shall distinctly rehearse each motion, when no one has any further observations to offer, and take the votes of the house on the same.

IX. When the votes are called for, they are to be given simply by Yea, and Nay, and no further observations are then admissible.

X. The President has the appointment of all committees which are not to be elected by ballot, or otherwise: and every motion for the formation of a committee shall specify in what way it is to be formed.

XI. It is an important part of his duty to give counsel to every member of the Synod when he deems it expedient, and particularly to admonish and advise every erring brother. If accusation has been lodged against any member of this body according to ch. iii. sec. v. or if he has reason to believe that any minister or licentiate is living in any material violation of the rules of this Formula, it shall be his duty to

call upon the individual to relieve his character from said imputation, before the Synod or Ministerium.

XII. Should the President remove from the limits of the Synod or depart this life, then the Secretary shall succeed him, and discharge the duties of the President, until the next Synod.

Secretary.

XIII. The Secretary shall keep a faithful and accurate account of all the proceedings of the Synod and Ministerium; carefully preserve all the papers, the seal &c. of the Synod subject to their direction, and shall do all the official writing of the Synod not otherwise provided for.

XIV. He shall give notice (either by circular or in the public papers, as each Synod may direct,) to each minister and licentiate belonging to the Synod, of the time and place of the synodical meeting, at least six weeks previous to the time appointed.

XV. He is to keep a register of the names of all the ministers and licensed candidates, arranged according to their age in office, and also of the congregations whether vacant or not, connected with the Synod.

XVI. If the accumulation of business should render it necessary, the President may appoint an assistant Secretary, whose office shall expire at the close of the meeting of the Synod.

XVII. If in the recess of the Synod, the Secretary should remove into the bounds of another Synod, or should depart this life, the President shall require the Archives, the seal and all other property of the Synod to be delivered to him, and shall retain the charge of them until the next session of the Synod, when he shall appoint a Secretary *pro tem*.

XVIII. Unless the Archives are otherwise disposed of by the Synod, they shall be in the charge and custody of the Secretary. Any minister or delegate of a congregation connected with said Synod shall have free access to them; but no part of them shall be allowed to be taken away or destroyed.

Treasurer.

XIX. The Treasurer shall take charge of all the monies belonging to the Synod, and shall keep them subject to its order. He shall keep, and present at each annual meeting, a detailed and faithful account of the state of the Treasury.

XX. Should the Treasurer, during the recess of the Synod, remove out of the bounds of the Synod, or be removed by death, the President shall have all the monies, certificates, bonds and documents belonging to the Synod, delivered into his hands, and shall have the charge of them until the next Synodical session.

CHAPTER X.

OTHER MEMBERS OF A SYNOD.

I. It is the duty of every ordained minister, licentiate and lay-delegate of every Synod, not only to observe the provisions of this constitution himself; but also, as far as is in his power, see that it is obeyed by all connected with it.

Ordained Ministers and Licentiates or Candidates.

II. It is recommended to every ordained minister and licentiate, to aid in circulating among the members of his charge. the books proposed by the Synod and General Synod for use.

III. No minister or licentiate shall interfere with the congregations of another, by preaching or performing other ministerial duties in them, except by his request or consent, if present; nor in his absence, if he have reason to think that any evil would result to said church.

IV. Any minister or licentiate in good standing, who removes from the bounds of one Synod into those of another, shall, on application to the President, receive a certificate under his signature, of his honorable dismissal; and such a certificate, shall be required by the Synod into which he removes, when he applies for admission into it.

V. Every ordained minister has the right to leave his charge and remove to another whenever he believes it his duty to do so; yet he must give the President timely notice of his intended removal.

VI. A licensed candidate shall have liberty to visit vacant congregations. either upon receiving an invitation from them, or upon the advice of the Synod or President.

VII. After a licentiate has a stated charge he shall be restricted to it, and shall not resign it without the consent of the Ministerium, or, in its recess, of the President.

VIII. A licentiate has power to perform all the ministerial functions during the time specified in his license.

IX. In addition to the obligations of ministers specified ch. iii. sec. 1, it is the duty of licentiates particularly to devote all their leisure time to their personal improvement and knowledge and grace, to receive counsel from the President, and to apply to him for advice in cases of difficulty.

X. Every licentiate must keep a general journal of his ministerial acts, which, with a few sermons of his own composition, he must deliver, or send annually for the inspection of the Ministerium.

Lay-Delegates.

XI. Each lay delegate, entitled to a seat by this Constitution; shall have equal rights with the ministers in all business belonging to the

Synod; that is, may take part in the debates, offer resolutions and vote on all Synodical questions.

CHAPTER XI.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

It is recommended, that the transactions of the Synod be conducted as follows :

I. At the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall assemble, and if four ordained ministers and two lay-delegates be present, they shall constitute a quorum.

II. The President shall open the first session by a prayer, after the brethren have unitedly sung an hymn. And every session of the Synod and Ministerium shall be opened and closed with prayer. In the absence of the President, the first prayer shall be made by the Secretary, and if he also be absent by one of the elder minister present.

III. After prayer the Secretary shall call the names of all the ordained ministers and licentiates belonging to the Synod, and note the absentees.

IV. The lay-delegates shall then exhibit the certificates of their appointment, and their names be registered by the Secretary as members of the Synod.

V. The President shall make his report (Chap. IX. §. IV.) as the last official act of his office and then inform the members, that

VI. The election of officers for the ensuing year is now to be attended to.

VII. Admission of delegates or ministers from other ecclesiastical bodies : according to Chap. VIII, §. XIV.

VIII. The minutes of the last Synod may be read.

IX. All papers intended for the Synod or Ministerium are to be handed in, and verbal notice may be given of any important business intended to be brought before the Synod.

X. The Secretary shall then number the papers as arranged by the President, after which they shall be taken up and discussed before the whole house in numerical order, or be first referred to committees, as the house may direct. The reports of committees, may be heard and acted on at any time, and the intervals filled up by the succeeding items.

XI. Each minister shall be called on by the Secretary for the record of persons baptised and confirmed, as well as of the regular commun-

ing members belonging to his churches (Chap. IV. §. XI.); as also of the number of schools.

XII. The Treasurer's account shall be heard.

XIII. The number of vacant congregations be inquired into, and provision made for them.

XIV. Promiscuous business.

XV. Election of delegates to the general Synod, or to other ecclesiastical bodies, and of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburgh.

XVI. Choice of the time and place for the next meeting of Synod.

XVII. Dissolution of the Synod, and annunciation of the time of the ministerial session.

XVIII. Should the President or Secretary be absent at the proper time for opening a session, the members present may elect others pro tempore.

CHAPTER XII.

PROCESS AGAINST A MINISTER.

I. As the honor and success of the gospel depend very much on the character of its ministers, every Synod ought to guard with the utmost care and impartiality the conduct of its members.

II. All christians should be very cautious in giving credit or circulation to an ill report of any man, and especially of a minister of the gospel; if any man knows a minister to be guilty of a private censurable fault, he should warn him in private. If this prove fruitless, he should apply to the church-council, who shall proceed as specified in Chap. III. §. V.

III. If accusation be lodged according to Chap. III. §. V. with the President within four months of the time of the next Synodical meeting, he shall defer the matter to said meeting; yet if the charge be one of drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental errors in doctrine, or a higher crime, he shall immediately direct the accused to suspend all his ministerial duties until his case is decided. If such accusation is lodged with the President at an earlier date, he shall if the charge be one of drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental error in doctrine or higher crime, immediately give notice to all the members of the Conference district to which the accused belongs, to meet without delay at a suitable place, and institute a formal investigation of the case, according to the principles of this Formula. The Chairman of said Conference district shall immediately fix the time and place of the meet-

ing, and give at least fifteen days notice of the same to each minister in the district, and also to the parties concerned.

IV. If the Synod is not divided into Conference Districts the President shall appoint a committee of three ordained ministers, shall fix the time and place of their meeting and give all the notices as above required of the Chairman of the Conference District.

V. Any three members of the conference or of the committee above named, shall have power to proceed and hold a fair and impartial investigation of the case, and to take all such measures as may be just and necessary to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused.

VI. If the accused confess, and the matter be base and flagitious, such as drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental error in doctrine, or a higher crime, however penitent he may be, he must immediately be suspended from the exercise of his office, and if thought expedient a time be appointed for him publicly to confess to the congregation and the world his guilt and penitance.

VII. If a minister, accused of atrocious crimes, being duly notified refuses to attend the investigation, he shall still be immediately suspended from office.

VIII. If the accused deny the charge, and yet on examination of the evidence is found guilty; the Conference or Committee shall nevertheless proceed to pass sentence on him.

IX. The highest punishment which can be inflicted by a Special Conference or Committee appointed as above specified, is suspension from clerical functions; and this sentence is to be reported to the next meeting of the Synod and remains in force until reversed by the Synod or Ministerium as the case may be.

X. Any minister intending to appeal from the decision of a Conference or Committee, shall give notice of it to his accusers within three weeks of the time when the decision was made; that both parties may be prepared for a new trial.

XI. Special Conferences not specially convened for the purpose, may attend to any charges of importance against a minister within their bounds, if all the parties concerned are prepared and willing to proceed.

XII. If at any time, accusation be lodged with the President, according to chapter III. § V. for a less crime than those above specified § III. he shall take no other steps in the case than to write a letter to the accused and accusers, exhorting them to mutual forbearance and referring them to the next Synod.

XIII. If accusation against a minister be made immediately to the Synod, and the Synod believe themselves in possession of all the evi-

dence necessary to a just decision, the case may be immediately examined and sentence passed. But if the necessary evidence be not before them, and the crime be such as is specified in § III, they shall appoint a meeting of the Conference to which the accused belongs, or, if there be no Conference district, of a Committee who shall proceed as above specified.

XIV. If a minister be found guilty of drunkenness, fundamental heresy, lewdness, or higher crimes, his sentence of suspension shall not be removed until after some time of penitent, humble and edifying conduct. And he cannot be restored by any judicatory than the Synod, or by the Ministerium, if his case was one of fundamental heresy.

XV. If the common report of a minister's guilt of any of the charges above specified, be such as seriously to injure the cause of religion, and his own churches do not proceed against him, it shall be the duty of any other minister or layman, having obtained two other signatures of credible men, to report the case to the President.

CHAPTER XIII.

VACANT CONGREGATIONS.

I. Vacant congregations which cannot be immediately supplied with a minister, are advised to assemble on the Lord's day, to select some member of the church, of suitable capacities and character, to conduct the exercises, and engage in the worship of God, as recommended in Chap. VII' § 1.

II. It is also recommended, that at these meetings, a portion of the scriptures, of the prayers contained in the Liturgy, or some select sermon, such as are approved by the President of the Synod, be read.

CHAPTER XIV.

OF MISSIONS.

As the blessed Saviour left to his followers the command, "Go ye and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you;" the Synods shall regard it as a sacred duty to adopt, from time to time, such measures as they may deem best calculated to execute this solemn injunction.

* Matth. xxviii. 19, 20.

CHAPTER XV.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND DIRECTORS.

The election of Delegates to the General Synod and of Directors of the Theological Seminary at Gettysburgh, shall always be held by ballot, and a licensed candidate shall not be eligible to either of these offices.

CHAPTER XVI.

SPECIAL CONFERENCES.

I. It is earnestly recommended that each Synod divide itself into two or more districts, for the purpose of holding special conferences; which may be held either on a week day or sabbath.

II. It is desirable, where ministers do not live too far apart, that at least two Conferences should be held annually in each district. They ought to last two days, and the chief business to be performed at them is to awaken and convert sinners, and to edify believers by close practical preaching of the gospel.

III. The state of religion in the churches of the district ought to be inquired into, and at least an hour be spent by the Conference alone in conversation on the subjects relating to pastoral experience.

IV. These districts ought to contain between five and ten ministers, and when the number becomes greater, a new district ought to be formed.

V. These Conferences ought to be held alternately, in some congregation of each minister and licentiate belonging to the district.

VI. Special Conferences may examine into any business of congregations, which is regularly referred to them, and give their advice; but no Conference shall, under any pretext whatever, perform any business connected with the licensure or ordination of candidates for the ministry.

VII. Lay-delegates may also be sent to these Conferences, under the same regulations as to Synods, if it is thought advisable by the Synod.

CHAPTER XVII.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

I. The clergy shall then hold a meeting consisting exclusively of scripture elders, that is preachers,* for the purpose of attending to

* Acts xx. 17, 28.

those duties which Christ and his apostles enjoined upon them alone, viz : examination, licensure, and ordination of candidates for the ministry. This meeting is called the Ministerium or Presbytery,† by which in scripture is meant ministers alone.

II. Licensed candidates may be present at the Ministerial meeting, unless requested to withdraw, and may take part in the discussions but have no vote.

III. The Ministerium shall also be the proper body, by whom all charges of heresy against a minister, are to be examined and decided ; as also all appeals from the decision of a church-council on a charge of heresy against a layman, or from the decision of a Special Conference on a similar charge against a minister.

IV. When ordained ministers of other religious denominations, make application for admission into connexion with a Synod, the Ministerium shall be the body to decide on the case.

V. A majority of two-thirds of the ordained ministers shall be required, either for the licensure of an applicant as well as the renewal of his license, or the ordination of a licensed candidate, or the admission of an ordained minister of another denomination.

VI. No minister or licentiate, coming from a foreign country, shall be received as a member of any Synod, until after a residence of two years in this country, and unexceptionable deportment during that time. Excepting only, that if an ordained minister comes well recommended for piety and learning, by a Consistorium, or a number of individuals, known to the Ministerium as orthodox and evangelical, and if the Ministerium believe that they can safely confide in the testimonials, they may receive him for twelve months, after which the vote for his permanent reception as a regular member shall be taken, and the case decided according to § V.

VII. All business not specifically entrusted to the Ministerium in this Formula, shall belong to the Synod.

VIII. The order of business in the Ministerium may be as follows :

1. After the session has been opened with prayer, the President shall communicate any business which he may have to report or propose.

2. The licentiates shall hand in their licenses, sermons, and journals, which ought if possible to be read by the licentiate before the whole body. If want of time renders this inconvenient, committees ought then to be appointed to examine and report on them.

3. Applicants for licensure are examined.

4. After the examination of the applicants, and of the sermons and journals of licentiates, the applicants and licentiates may be desired to

† 1 Tim. iv. 14.

withdraw, and the question of their licensure and renewal of license or ordination, be discussed and decided,.

5. The licensure and ordination may be performed either in the Ministerium, or at an appointed hour, before a promiscuous assembly.

6. Promiscuous matters relative to Ministerial business may then be attended to.

7. Some time shall then be spent in conversation on pastoral experience.

8. The session closed, as directed Ch. XI, § 2.

CHAPTER XVIII.

EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE OF CANDIDATES.

I. The examination shall be conducted by an examining committee of two or more ordained ministers, appointed for the purpose at the meeting of the previous year, or by a committee appointed at the time. As these examinations may be highly interesting and useful to the whole Ministerium, and will be more faithfully performed if public, it is earnestly recommended that they be performed before the whole body.

II. After the examination by the committee is ended, every member of the Ministerium has the right to ask the applicant any additional questions.

III. The examination shall embrace at least the following subjects, viz : personal piety and the motives of the applicant for seeking the holy office, the Greek and Hebrew scriptures, the evidences of christianity, natural and revealed theology, church history, pastoral theology, the rules of sermonizing, and church government.

IV. No Ministerium shall, in any case whatever, license an individual whom they do not believe to be hopefully pious. Nor shall any applicant, extraordinary cases excepted, be licensed, whom the Ministerium do not find possessed of a competent acquaintance with the subjects named in § III, the Hebrew language alone excepted.

V. The *ceremony of licensure* shall be performed as follows, viz : after an address from the President as prescribed in the Liturgy, he shall read the duties and privileges of licentiates in Chap. X, § VI—X. and then propose to him the following questions :

1. Do you believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice ? *

2, Do you believe that the fundamental doctrines of the word of God

are taught in a manner substantially correct in the doctrinal articles of the Augsburg Confession?*

3. Do you promise, by the aid of God, faithfully to perform all the duties enjoined on you in this Formula, and to submit yourself to its rules of government and discipline, so long as you remain a member of a Lutheran Synod?†

VI. These questions being answered in the affirmative, the President offers up a suitable prayer, delivers him his license, and concludes with a short address, as directed in the Liturgy.

VII. All licenses shall extend to the time of the next annual meeting of the Ministerium, and shall be renewed as a matter of course, whether the licentiate be present or not, unless satisfactory reasons are known to the Ministerium, which render a renewal inexpedient. And if for any reason, no meeting be held at the appointed time, the licenses granted by said Ministerium shall remain in force, until revoked at a subsequent meeting.

VIII. If a licentiate, after some time of probation, does, in the judgment of the Ministerium, prove himself unqualified for the duties of the ministry, his license shall be withdrawn.

CHAPTER XIX.

ORDINATION.

I. Whenever the Ministerium has decided that an individual shall be ordained, the ceremony may be performed, either at the time by the assembled Ministerium, or if preferred, in the church by which he has been called, by the Special Conference, or by a Committee appointed for the purpose by the President.

II. The Ceremony of ordination, wherever performed, shall be as follows: viz.

1. A sermon shall be preached by a person previously appointed, on the nature, duties and responsibilities of the ministerial office.

2. The President of the Ministerium, or Chairman of the Conference or Committee, shall then, after a short address, such as is contained in the Liturgy, propose to the candidate the following questions:

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

2. Do you believe that the fundamental doctrines of the word of God, are taught in a manner substantially correct, in the doctrinal articles of the Augsburg Confession?

*Tim. i. 13.

† 2 Pet. v. 5.

3. Do you promise, by the aid of God, faithfully to perform all the duties enjoined on you in this Formula, and to submit yourself to its rules of Government and Discipline, so long as you remain a member of any Lutheran Synod?

4. Do you believe that in seeking the ministerial office you are influenced by a sincere love to God your Saviour, and desire to promote his glory in the welfare of men.

5. Do you promise faithfully and zealously to preach the truths of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as contained in the Holy Scriptures?

6. These questions being answered in the affirmative, the candidate shall kneel down, when the President or presiding minister, shall ordain him after the apostolic example by prayer * and the laying on of hands of the ministry † i. e. presbytery. The candidate shall then rise, and the officiating minister, and after him the ordained ministers present shall take him by the right hand and welcome him to take part in the ministry with them. ‡ (The ceremonies may then be concluded by the benediction. But if the ordination was performed in a church to which he is called, the presiding minister shall proceed without any interruption with the ceremonies of installation.)

CHAPTER XX.

INSTALLATION.

I. He shall then propose to the minister just ordained, this question : viz.

Are you willing to take charge of this congregation, and do you promise, by the grace of God, faithfully to discharge the duties of a christian pastor to them.

II. This question being answered in the affirmative, the President shall ask the congregation :

Do you desire to receive ——— as the regular pastor of your church (or churches,) to which you have given him a call? And do you promise faithfully to discharge towards him the duties, which a christian congregation owe to their pastor?

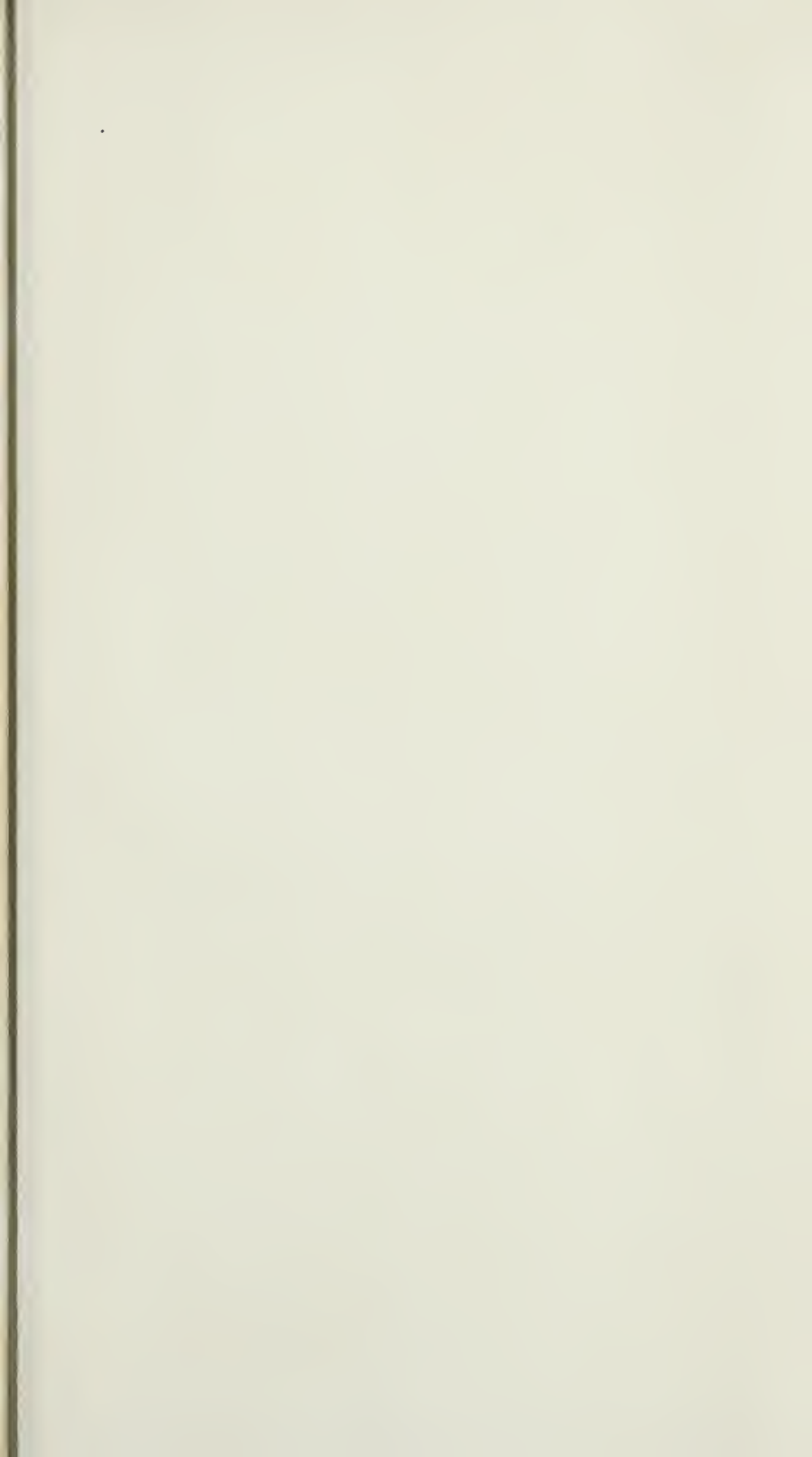
These questions being answered in the affirmative. The presiding minister shall solemnly pronounce the individual installed to be the regular pastor of said charge ; and conclude with the benediction.

III. If a minister already ordained, is to be installed, the ceremony of Installation shall be preceded by a sermon on the relation between a

* Acts xiii. 2, 3. † 1 Tim. iv. 14. ‡ Acts, i. 25.

minister and the people of his charge, or on some other suitable subject, by a person previously appointed. The minister shall then be formally installed, according to § I. II. after which, a charge may be delivered by a minister previously appointed, to the pastor and his people on their respective duties, and the whole be closed with the benediction.

P. S. As different Synods might differ in opinion relative to matters of a minor nature, so many particulars only as are necessary to general uniformity, and harmony of operation among the churches, were introduced into this Formula. Each Synod adopting this Constitution, has the power to form such by-laws, as may seem proper to itself.







DEMCO

FOR REFERENCE
Do Not Take From This Room

